Hafa Adai!

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# Saipan Tribune

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Judiciary to launch land notification feature in E-Recording platform. PAGE 2

Youth from Saipan travel to Guam to attend special conference. PAGE 3

## FINANCE SECRETARY ON ARPA FUNDS:

# 'Standard accounting practices disregarded'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Finance Secretary Tracy Norita and CNMI Treasurer Asuncion "Connie" S. Agulto appeared before the Senate special committee on the Bank of Guam investment account ($225 million) and American Rescue Plan Act spending plans for the CNMI to answer questions regarding ARPA funds and how they were handled under the previous administration.

In the spirit cooperation and partnership, Norita and Agulto appeared before the Senate special committee yesterday (without counsel) to answer

See STANDARD on Page 4

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

CNMI Treasurer Asuncion S. Agulto appeared before the Senate special committee on the Bank of Guam investment account ($225 million) and ARPA spending plans for the CNMI to answer questions regarding ARPA funds and how they were handled under the previous administration.

## Macapagal-Arroyo visits Saipan

Former Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will be on Saipan for a two-day visit, as she will serve as guest of honor in the LPK Cup, a football tournament that will be held at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville tomorrow, July 18.

Macapagal-Arroyo

Macapagal-Arroyo is the honorary chairwoman of the Tuloy Football Club, one of the four teams that will be competing in the LPK Cup. The three other teams seeing action in the LPK Cup are Shonan Bellmare from Japan, Chelsea FC Soccer School Hong Kong, and the NMI Women's National Team. Tuloy FC is a football organization that competes in the pro Philippine Football League, and its players—both males and females—have played

See VISITS on Page 4

## Authorities hunt for clues, but motive of man who tried to assassinate Trump remains elusive

AP

A campaign rally site for Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump is empty and littered with debris Saturday, July 13, 2024, in Butler, Pa.

**WASHINGTON** (AP)— The 20-year-old man who tried to assassinate former President Donald Trump first came to law enforcement's attention at Saturday's rally when spectators noticed him acting strangely outside the campaign event. The tip

See CLUES on Page 4

## PSS' oversight and accountability issues raised during budget hearing

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Yesterday, the Public School System appeared before the House Standing Committee on Ways and Means to discuss its fiscal year 2025 budget of over $39 million.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A number of individuals took the stand during the Public School System's budget hearing before the House Standing Committee on Ways and Means to voice their concerns and seeking the Legislature's help in holding PSS accountable for their spending and oversight of programs.

Yesterday, PSS leadership appeared before the House Standing Committee on Ways and Means to discuss

See PSS on Page 4

## INSIDE

### BUSINESS

CannaSaipan Dispensary & Lounge and VaprSpot held their grand opening last Saturday morning in Beach Road, Garapan.

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### NATION

Former President Donald Trump chose Sen. JD Vance of Ohio as his running mate on Monday, picking a onetime critic who became a loyal ally and is now the first millennial to join a major-party ticket.

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### LIFE & STYLE

King Charles III is preparing to visit Australia and Samoa in October, an itinerary that will span 12 time zones and test the monarch's stamina as he recovers from cancer treatment.

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# Local

## Judiciary to launch land notification feature in E-Recording platform

The Judiciary announces the upcoming launch of an innovative land notification feature in its E-Recording platform. This new service, set to go live in late July, will provide real property owners with timely alerts on recording activities associated with their names, businesses, or properties.

The land notification feature is designed to help property owners prevent fraud by keeping them informed of any new documents being recorded against their property. Whenever there is recording activity, an email notification is immediately sent to the property owner, ensuring they are aware of any changes or updates.

"The launch of the land notification feature marks a significant step forward in protecting the rights of land owners in the Northern Marianas," said Commonwealth recorder Kelsey G. Aldan. "This feature is part of the technology and digitization project at the Recorder's Office, all made possible by the Judiciary's allotted ARPA funds."

Digitalization and indexing of historical land documents will be completed in the next few months, making available instantaneous access to documents by mobile or other electronic devices. This digitization project supports the online land document search platform, which was partially launched in March of this year.

Property owners may sign up for the land notification service by clicking the Commonwealth Recorder tab at www.NMIJudiciary.gov beginning in early August. It will be made available without an additional fee.

For inquiries, contact Kelsey G. Aldan at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office at Kelsey.Aldan@NMIJudiciary.gov. ***(PR)***

## Access $7,395 in federal financial aid

NMC

Northern Marianas College will be hosting free workshops for students and parents who are looking for assistance in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Students who complete a 2024-2025 FAFSA may be eligible for up to $7,395 in federal financial aid for college.

Students who are looking for assistance in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid are encouraged to attend the upcoming free workshops hosted by the Northern Marianas College's Financial Aid Office. Up to $7,300 is available in federal aid for the 2024-2025 Academic Year.

The workshops will assist participants in completing the 2024-25 FAFSA form before the Fall 2024 semester. Individuals who complete a FAFSA may be able to access up to $7,395 in federal financial aid for NMC's upcoming academic year. The workshops are open to students on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

To ensure completion, students and parents must create their Federal Student Aid (FSA) IDs (FAFSA accounts) three days prior to the workshop to complete the verification process. To create an FSA ID, visit www.studentaid.gov and click "Create Account." This will require personal information, the creation of a username and password, security questions, and contact information verification. Students and parents must have a separate FSA ID and are encouraged to keep their information safe as the NMC Financial Aid Office does not have access to account recovery.

Seats are limited per day and attendees are encouraged to bring a laptop if they have one. However, laptops and other devices will be made available to facilitate the application process. Incentives will be given out to those who successfully complete their FAFSA forms. Students, parents, and others who plan to attend the workshop must register here: https://bit.ly/4eUJRqn.

The free FAFSA workshops on Saipan will be held at NMC's Olympio T. Borja Memorial Library with a session for students from 9am to 1pm and a session for parents from 2pm to 6pm on the following dates:

- Friday, July 19
- Saturday, July 27
- Thursday, Aug. 1
- Friday, Aug. 2
- Saturday, Aug. 3
- Saturday, Aug. 10

Tinian's FAFSA workshop will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 13, from 9am to 6pm for both students and parents at the Tinian NMC Campus.

Rota's FAFSA workshop will be held on Tuesday, August 6th from 9am to 6pm for both students and parents at the Rota NMC Campus.

Participants are encouraged to bring documents such as valid identification (passport or birth certificate), copies of their high school diploma, copies of official transcripts, and tax return information for the year 2022 to complete their application.

For more information, contact the NMC Financial Aid Office through email at fao@marianas.edu or call (670) 237-6790. Participants can also stop by the Financial Aid Office from 9am to 3pm Monday to Thursday. ***(PR)***

# Youth from Saipan travel to Guam to attend special conference

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Delegates of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' special youth conference in Guam pose with their "I am a disciple" banner.

From June 19 to 24, 26 youth from Saipan joined over 300 young men and women from across Micronesia to attend a special youth conference in Guam hosted by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. They ranged from 13 to 18 years old. For many, this was their first time leaving their home island and traveling by airline.

The Church of Jesus Christ's youth conference program is called "For the Strength of Youth" and is part of the church's efforts to strengthen the faith and bless the lives of young people. This year's theme for FSY conferences throughout the world is "I a disciple of Jesus Christ."

The FSY conference was held at the Holiday Resort on Tumon Bay. Youth from Chuuk, Guam, Kosrae, Pohnpei, Palau, and Saipan attended along with leaders and chaperones. The gathering was an opportunity to associate with people from neighboring islands and to interact with friends from different cultures. Translators were available to help with communication.

Shortly after arriving, the youth were divided into small groups called companies. These companies adopted names and designed colorful banners for their companies, and under the direction of youth counselors, spent the week participating together in reading and discussing scriptures, playing games, and singing and dancing.

Classes were offered on topics such as building self-esteem, overcoming challenges, finding a common culture and identity in Christ, and learning to discern truth by studying the scriptures and listening to the Holy Ghost. In addition, representatives for BYU Hawaii and the Church's Pathways education program presented opportunities for post-high school education.

One of the culminating events was an outdoor game night held at Paseo Stadium in which companies competed in various games. This was followed by a variety show featuring talents such as dancing, singing, piano solos, and one demonstration of rapid-fire Rubik's Cube solving. At every event, youth sang the theme song, "I am a disciple of Christ."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The dinosaur dance is performed during the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' special youth conference in Guam.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' special youth conference in Guam take part in a tug-of-war.

A special event for those attending was meeting elder John A. McCune, first counselor in the Asia North Area Presidency, and his wife Debbra E. McCune. The McCunes interacted with the youth, helped to judge the presentation of company banners, and enjoyed other activities.

At a special devotional, elder McCune spoke to the youth about their central identity as followers of Jesus Christ. "The island we're from is an important part of who we are, but that's not our primary identity," he emphasized. "We are sons and daughters of God, covenant children of Christ and disciples of Christ. This is our identity."

Buck and Rachel Jolley of Guam were the acting session directing couple for the Guam FSY conference. "We were able to bring a lot of different youth from a lot of different islands all across Micronesia," said Buck Jolley. "That gave them a chance to see that there are other youth who have the same beliefs and struggles as they do."

"Our goal was to give the youth an experience that they would always remember," added Rachel Jolley, "something to carry them through by helping them come unto Christ."

Following the FSY conference, many participants stayed a few days after the conference ended to attend in Yigo Guam Temple for their first time. The Yigo Guam Temple is one of the Church of Jesus Christ's newest temples and was dedicated in 2022.

As the FSY participants said their goodbyes and left Guam to return to their home islands, they took with them renewed commitments to live as disciples of Christ. This commitment will undoubtedly be reinforced through memories of this wonderful gathering of youth on the island of Guam. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A participant of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' special youth conference in Guam plays the ukulele.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Delegates of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' special youth conference in Guam study on the hillside.

Located at the Armatech Building in Chalan Kanoa across the intersection leading to the U.S. Post Office. For reservations or for more information, call 234-8894, 287-8895 and 488-8899.



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**PUBLIC NOTICE**
07/03/2024

**Notice for Public Comment**
Reprogramming of Emergency Solution Grants

| Program Year/ IDIS No.: | Program: | Activity Name: | Subrecipient: | Approved Budget: | Proposed Reprogramming Amount: | Proposed Revised Project Budget: | Current IDIS Funded Amount: |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| IDIS# 751 | HESG | PY2021 HESG22 HMIS | | $8,000.00 | ($6,443.93) | $1,556.07 | $8,000.00 |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | Total Reprogrammed from Activities: | | | ($6,443.93) | | |
| IDIS# 749 | HESG | PY2021 HESG21 Rapid Rehousing NMHC | | $39,825.33 | $3,700.00 | $43,525.33 | $39,825.33 |
| IDIS# 750 | HESG | PY2021 HSG Homeless Prevention NMHC | | $26550.22 | $2,743.93 | $29,294.15 | $26,550.22 |
| | | Total Reprogrammed to Activities: | | | $6,443.93 | | |

Our agency, through its Citizen Participation Plan (CPP), publishes a "Public Notice" on reprogramming funds from HMIS to a project activity, which constitutes as a substantial amendment. Therefore, any comments from the general public should be submitted to NMHC Central Office located in Garapan, Saipan, and to the Rota and Tinian Field Offices, on or before August 05, 2024 no later than 4:30 P.M. You may contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Ms. Tricia Tenorio, Planner @ (670)234-6866/9447.

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Rota Field Office
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**PROCUREMENT SERVICES**
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**
**RFP24-DCCA/CCDF-42400124**

**SUBMISSION DATE: August 02, 2024 TIME: 09:00 A.M.**

**"CCDF System of Support for Home-Based Providers (License or License-Exempt)"**

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**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ Francisco M. Rabauliman
SECRETARY, DCCA

/S/ Brien S. Nicholas, Jr.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS



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## CLUES

*From page 1*

sparked a frantic search but officers were unable to find him before he managed to get on a roof, where he opened fire.

In the wake of the shooting that killed one spectator, investigators were hunting for any clues about what may have drove Thomas Matthew Crooks, of Bethel Park, Pennsylvania, to carry out the shocking attack. The FBI said they were investigating it as a potential act of domestic terrorism, but the absence of a clear ideological motive by the man shot dead by the Secret Service led conspiracy theories to flourish.

"I urge everyone — everyone, please, don't make assumptions about his motives or his affiliations," President Joe Biden said in remarks Sunday from the White House. "Let the FBI do their job, and their partner agencies do their job. I've instructed that this investigation be thorough and swift."

The FBI said it believes Crooks, who had bomb-making materials in the car he drove to the rally, acted alone. Investigators have found no threatening comments on social media accounts or ideological positions that could help explain what led him to target Trump before the Secret Service rushed the presumptive Republican presidential nominee off the stage, his face smeared with blood.

Trump said on social media the upper part of his right ear was pierced in the shooting, but advisers said he was "great spirits" ahead of his arrival Sunday in Milwaukee for the Republican National Convention. Two spectators were critically injured, while a former fire chief from the area, Corey Comperatore was killed. Pennsylvania's governor said Comperatore, 50, died a hero by diving onto his family to protect them.

Relatives of Crooks didn't respond to numerous messages from The Associated Press. His father, Matthew Crooks, told CNN late Saturday that he was trying to figure out "what the hell is going on" but wouldn't speak about his son until after he talked to law enforcement. An FBI official told reporters that Crooks' family is cooperating with investigators.

Several rallygoers reported to local officers that Crooks was acting suspiciously and pacing near the magnetometers, according to a law enforcement official who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the investigation. Officers were then told Crooks was climbing a ladder, the official said. Officers searched for him but were unable to find him before he made it to the roof, the official added.

Butler County Sheriff Michael Slupe told the AP that a local officer climbed to the roof and encountered Crooks, who saw the officer and turned toward him just before the officer dropped down to safety. Slupe said the officer couldn't have wielded his own gun under the circumstances. The officer retreated down the ladder, and Crooks quickly took a shot toward Trump, and that's when Secret Service snipers shot him, according to two officials who spoke to AP on condition of anonymity to discuss an ongoing investigation.

FBI officials said Sunday that they were combing Crooks' background and social media activities while working to get access to his phone. The chatting app Discord, a social media platform popular with people playing online games, said Crooks appears to have had an account but used it rarely and not in the last several months. There's no evidence he used his account to promote violence or discuss his political views, a Discord spokesperson said.

Crooks' political leanings were not immediately clear. Records show Crooks was registered as a Republican voter in Pennsylvania, but federal campaign finance reports also show he gave $15 to a progressive political action committee on Jan. 20, 2021, the day Biden was sworn into office.

Crooks graduated from Bethel Park High School in 2022. In a video of the school's graduation ceremony posted online, Crooks can be seen crossing the stage to receive his diploma, appearing slight of build and wearing glasses. The school district said it will cooperate fully with investigators. His senior year, Crooks was among several students given an award for math and science, according to a Tribune-Review story at the time.

Crooks tried out for the school's rifle team but was turned away because he was a bad shooter, said Frederick Mach, a current captain of the team who was a few years behind Crooks at the school.

Jason Kohler, who said he attended the same high school but did not share any classes with Crooks, said Crooks was bullied at school and sat alone at lunch time. Other students mocked him for the clothes he wore, which included hunting outfits, Kohler said.

"He was bullied almost every day," Kohler told reporters. "He was just a outcast, and you know how kids are nowadays."

Crooks worked at a nursing home as a dietary aide, a job that generally involves food preparation. Marcie Grimm, the administrator of Bethel Park Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation, said in a statement she was "shocked and saddened to learn of his involvement." Grimm added that Crooks had a clean background check when he was hired.

A blockade had been set up Sunday preventing traffic near Crooks' house, which is in an enclave of modest brick houses in the hills outside Pittsburgh and about an hour's drive from the site of the Trump rally. Police cars were stationed at an intersection near the house and officers were seen walking through the neighborhood.

Crooks used an AR-style rifle, which authorities said they believe was purchased by his father. Kevin Rojek, FBI special agent in charge in Pittsburgh, said that investigators do not yet know if he took the gun without his father's permission.

A video posted to social media and geolocated by AP shows Crooks wearing a gray t-shirt with a black American flag on the right arm lying motionless on the roof of a manufacturing plant just north of the Butler Farm Show grounds where Trump's rally was held.

The roof where Crooks lay was less than 150 meters (164 yards) from where Trump was speaking, a distance from which a decent marksman could reasonably hit a human-sized target. That is a distance at which U.S. Army recruits must hit a scaled human-sized silhouette to qualify with the M-16 rifle.

## STANDARD

*From page 1*

questions regarding ARPA funds and how they were handled under the previous administration.

The committee had previously voted in favor issuing a subpoena against Agulto but she and Norita, as promised, appeared ready to answer questions without the need for an official subpoena.

Norita, for her part, shared that in the 10 years she's worked with Agulto, she has known her to be hardworking, committed, and a professional finance officer.

"In her capacity as treasurer [Agulto] has served multiple administrations and secretaries of Finance. I've worked alongside Connie for the past 10 years and in my decade of experience working with her, I've known her to be a hardworking, committed, and professional finance officer—a true public servant," she said.

Norita shared that Agulto had even warned former secretary of Finance David Atalig that improper booking of ARPA fund transactions would become an issue down the road, however, standard accounting practices were still disregarded.

"In the past administration, the former secretary of Finance did not take heed to Ms. Connie's warnings and made decisions against our treasurer's advisement, resulting in payments lacking documentation and proper entry into the financial system. The standard accounting practices were disregarded, and the 'exception' became the standard. It has taken a whole team, many months, and hard work to correct these mistakes and restore the integrity of our financial records," she said.

Norita shared that Agulto played an instrumental role in helping put the pieces of the ARPA spending puzzle, together.

"Without her help, background knowledge, and personal tracking record of payments made with improper bookings, we will be nowhere near the level of progress you see today. She kept note and record of these transactions, believing that one day it could prove useful to an auditor or investigator but mostly because she was given assurances by former secretary David Atalig that the transactions would be fixed and ultimately booked, however that was not the case and never happened," she said.

The Finance chief notes that ARPA reconciliation was, and still is, a daunting task but it was through Agulto's help that they were able to make progress.

"To give you an idea of the amount of work my staff and the fiscal response team has been working tirelessly to reconcile the ARPA funds, if I were to print out the identified transactions, it would print to approximately 3,000 pages. The bulk of these transactions weren't there last year, some didn't exist and required proper entry into the system. Over the past 12 months, our team at DOF, alongside Office of Management & Budget, Public Assistance Office, CNMI HSEM, have been working tirelessly to identify these transactions and putting the pieces of the puzzle together, because we share the same desire, to be in compliance with the law and properly report to U.S. Treasury and have the CNMI be accountable for its expenditures," she said.

In closing, Norita said DOF's immediate focus and attention is directed toward the recoupment of ARPA funds and full obligation of the recouped funds before the deadline of Dec. 31, 2024. Otherwise, the CNMI will be liable for these funds and impacts to other existing federal grants could be severe.

"The clock is ticking, and time cannot be wasted. I extend a working hand to this committee to resolve any questions it may have and welcome your available resources to continue and expedite the work so the CNMI can reduce its potential liability on the funds that remain to be recouped. You are welcome to work with our assigned staff, schedule working meetings to analyze the data, create statistics and help us, refer questionable findings to the Office of the Public Auditor and the Attorney General for further investigation," said Norita.

## PSS

*From page 1*

its fiscal year 2025 budget of over $39 million.

Before PSS took the floor to justify their budget proposal (the highest budget proposal among all government entities), members and supporters of the Chamorro Carolinian Language and Heritage Studies (CCLHS) took the stand to voice their concerns for the lack of support to keep the CCLHS program alive.

Malua Taisacan Peter, in her heartmoving comments, expressed that the Refaluwasch program under PSS has not been treated equally with the Chamorro program and asked that the Legislature hold an oversight hearing to see for themselves how PSS programs are ran and to allegedly see how the CCLHS program favors the Chamorro program more than the Carolinian. In addition, Peters says PSS should be held accountable for this.

"I hate standing here having to bring this to your attention. I am almost 80, I was discriminated against [as a Refaluwasch], and this continues [to happen] to Refaluwasch students and [the] community. I am saddened to stand here, on behalf of the Carolinian people, but I cannot stand by without doing something to protect the younger generation. With that, we ask that [the Legislature] take time to see what can be done to help. Hold and oversight hearing to get a picture of how the PSS is running its programs. Also, audit [should be done for] accountability. I would like the Legislature to request for an audit. With the situation of the economy, we need it done. We need to see who is getting more for less work and who is getting less for more work," she said.

Fellow members of the Carolinian community reiterated the importance of the Carolinian language and culture with Naseema Odin expressing that the Carolinian program is failing.

"We want equity across the board. We've asked this of past commissioners and now the current. We keep hearing we need more teachers but we don't have money and we just want to know, what are we doing with the money that we have? There are currently less than 10 full-time Carolinian teachers for years. We need accountability within ourselves," she said.

House Speaker Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), although absent as he is currently enrolled in the CCLHS program with the University of Guam, had his comments read out yesterday stating that his goal is to preserves the Chamorro and Carolinian language.

"We understand other subjects are requesting funds as well, we support these requests as it benefits the entire community. However, we would like to bring to your attention some concerns regarding the commitments made to us at the starting of our training," he said.

Villagomez expressed that he and over 20 others who took on the CCLHS program at UOG were supposed to be hired through PSS upon completing their course, but have recently been informed that they would be put through the Workforce Investment Agency instead for a 90-day probation period. As for WIA, Villgomez said no MOA has been provided.

"There is a disparity of Chamorro and Carolinian Teachers within PSS. We kindly request the intervention of the Legislature to ensure that management honor promises made to us to include full-time employment, positions, and incentives per course. Our goal is to contribute effectively and efficiently to the organization and pass on our heritage and educational expertise through languages," he said.

Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho assumed the position six months ago and inherited these issues, expressed that PSS would be looking into these concerns.

## VISITS

*From page 1*

for the Philippine National

Team. Tuloy FC will kick off the games in the LPK Cup this Thursday, as it takes on Shonan Bellmare for the 4pm match.

Macapagal-Arroyo is the highest-ranked Philippine government official to visit Saipan and her presence on the island is a testament to the strong relationship between the Philippines and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and their willingness to experience and embrace each other's unique cultures and traditions. ***(PR)***

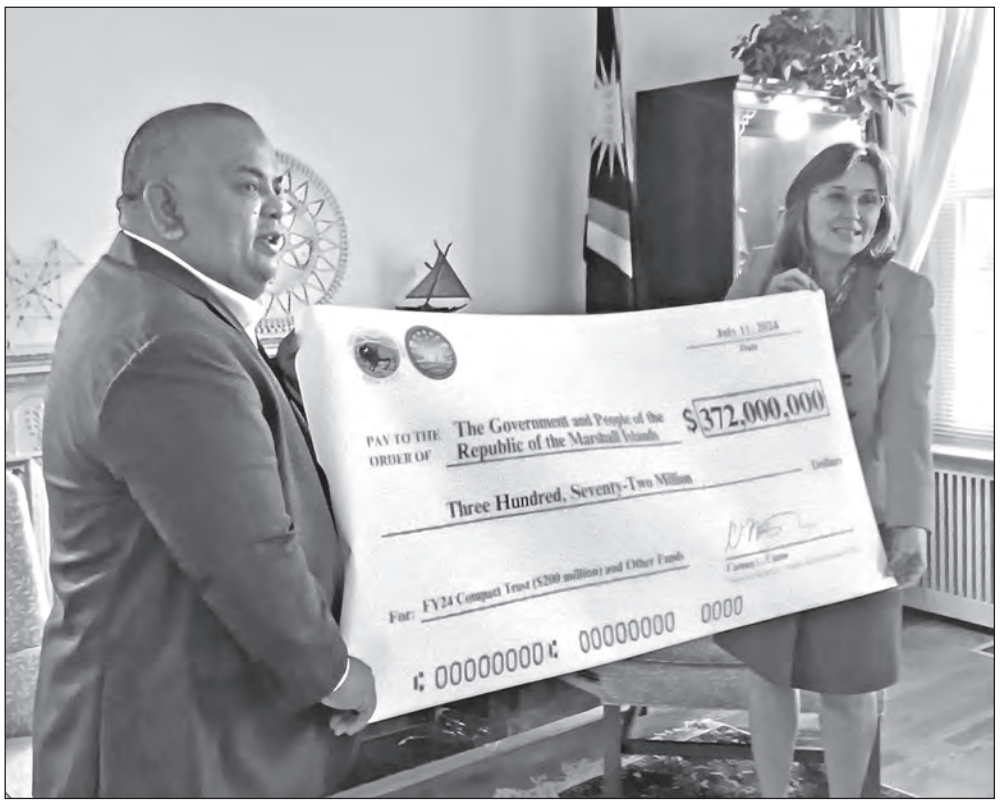
# Cantor announces $372M in Compact funding for RMI

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**—The Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs Carmen G. Cantor last week announced $372 million in Compact of Free Association (Compact) funding for the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The funding includes direct Compact economic assistance to the RMI Government and a deposit into the Trust Fund for the People of the Marshall Islands as provided for under the Compact. The announcement came during a visit with RMI Ambassador Charles Paul at the RMI Embassy in Washington.

Cantor highlighted the U.S. Government's implementation of provisions under Public Law 118-42, which enabled and provided funding for the recently negotiated agreement on amendments to the Compact of Free Association signed between the United States and the RMI on Oct. 16, 2023.

"We are honored to deliver $372 million on behalf of the U.S. Government to support the Republic of the Marshall Islands as one of our first actions taken under the newly amended Compact agreements," said Cantor. "This amount includes a contribution of $200 million to the Compact Trust Fund and is the first installment of United States contributions expected to total $700 million over a four-year period."

Since the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act was signed into law by President Biden on March 9, the United States has provided funding support totaling $372 million as follows:


July 11, 2024
PAY TO THE ORDER OF
The Government and People of the Republic of the Marshall Islands
$372,000,000
Three Hundred, Seventy-Two Million
For: FY24 Compact Trust ($200 million) and Other Funds
00000000 00000000 0000

OIA

Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs Carmen G. Cantor and Republic of the Marshall Islands Ambassador Charles Paul hold up the $372-million Compact of Free Association funding giant facsimile check.

OIA

Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs Carmen G. Cantor meets with Republic of the Marshall Islands Ambassador Charles Paul at the RMI Embassy in Washington, D.C.

■ $200 million—The Compact Trust Fund for the People of the Marshall Islands provides the RMI with sources of revenue to help meet the needs of people in the RMI in accordance with terms of the Trust Fund Agreement between the United States and RMI.

■ $132 million—The Kwajalein Development Plan Fund supports projects to facilitate resilience and healthy communities throughout Kwajalein Atoll as further described in the Kwajalein Development Plan that is currently being updated by the RMI.

■ $20 million—The Climate Fund supports the RMI's efforts to obtain additional assistance and better cope with challenges from climate impacts, including sea-level rise and other environmental challenges that could threaten the existence of the RMI.

■ $20 million—The U.S. Supplemental Health Fund supports RMI efforts to improve health outcomes for the people of the RMI.

Under Public Law 118-42, there were also updates to the types of services that individuals from the Marshall Islands and the other freely associated states are eligible for while living in the United States. An initial list of program and policy updates from various agencies that reflect the amended Compact are available here and will be updated as needed.

Also called for under the Compact of Free Association agreement is an annual meeting of the Joint Economic Management Fiscal Accountability Committee which reviews and approves annual budgets for Compact funds. The JEMFAC, which is chaired by Assistant Secretary Cantor, is planning to hold its first meeting under the renewed Compact later this year.

The Assistant Secretary-Insular and International Affairs and the Office of Insular Affairs carry out the Secretary of the Interior's responsibilities for the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Additionally, OIA administers and oversees federal assistance under the Compacts of Free Association to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. The OIA also administers a discretionary Technical Assistance Program for all the Insular Areas. Find information about OIA and its work on www.doi.gov/oia, Facebook, X, and YouTube. ***(PR)***

# UOG hosts virtual presentation on careers with Department of State on July 18

The University of Guam Triton Advising Center invites UOG students and alumni to participate in an upcoming virtual session with Diplomat in Residence, Katelyn Choe, to learn about career pathways in the U.S. Department of State. Choe will provide an overview of her experience as a U.S. diplomat, talk about possible career pathways, and the scholarship and fellowship options available for those who would like to pursue graduate school.

Choe

Choe has over 22 years of experience working for the U.S. Department of State and has represented the United States in various regions across the world, including diplomatic tours in The Netherlands, Afghanistan, Nepal, New Zealand, and South Korea. Currently, she focuses on providing guidance and advice to students and professionals seeking jobs, internships, scholarships, and fellowships related to a career in diplomacy.

For current UOG students, there are virtual internship opportunities where they can get matched up with different departments depending on their interests. For recent graduates and alumni professionals, there are scholarship and fellowship options, such as the Pickering Fellowship, that provide funding for graduate school. More details about these opportunities will be presented in the upcoming session.

Ron VanDon, a career specialist from the Triton Advising Center, stated: "We are excited to connect students to someone who can say, 'Here's what I experienced as a diplomat. Here's how I got there, and here are the resources I used.' We hope this session emboldens students to take that next step if pursuing a career in foreign and public service."

For more information about the event, contact Ron Van Don, career specialist, Triton Advising Center at (671) 588-1478 or email vandonr@triton.uog.edu.

**Event details**

■ Date: Thursday, July 18th, 2024

■ Time: 10am-11 am

■ Location: Virtual

■ Who should attend: current undergraduate and graduate students at UOG and alumni interested in foreign and public service

■ Registration link: https://url.uog.edu/dos-careers-2024.

**About the Triton Advising Center**

The Triton Advising Center is a grant funded project that focuses on enhancing student experiences at the University of Guam. Part of the goal of the grant is to connect and partner up with local and off-island companies and organizations so that career opportunities become more accessible to students. ***(PR)***

# UOG Extension invites dog owners to free canine care workshop

Island residents and dog owners are invited to a Companion Animal Welfare Workshop to learn about basic home grooming, canine nutrition, parasite prevention, and other essential care for dogs. The event is free to attend and will be offered three times the week of July 22 at different locations on island.

"Dogs are excellent companions. However, they can't tell us what they need, so it is our responsibility to understand and learn how to take good care of them and provide what they need," said Dr. Jeng-Hung Liu, animal scientist with University of Guam Cooperative Extension & Outreach. "This workshop is a unique opportunity for dog owners, prospective dog owners, and anyone who works with dogs to hear from animal experts on how to best care for them."

UOG is hosting the workshop along with the Department of Veterinary Medicine from National Chung Hsing University in Taiwan, Guam Animals in Need, and Happy Pooch Groom & Board with sponsorship from the Jackson Yang Scholarship. Presentations from each organization will be followed by a Q&A session.

Several visiting faculty veterinarians from NCHU will simultaneously be on island through UOG assisting with the Spay & Neuter Island Pets program clinic from July 23-Aug. 1 at the Hagat Mayor's Office Community Center. Appointments can be made at www.snipclinicguam.com.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

University of Guam Cooperative Extension & Outreach will be hosting a Companion Animal Welfare Workshop starting July 23 at different locations on island.

**Workshop Schedule:**

**Tuesday, July 23**
5:30pm-7:30pm
Sinajana Mayor's Office (117A Chalan Guma Yu'us)
No registration required

**Wednesday, July 24**
5:30pm-7:30pm
Yigo Research & Education Center/Triton Farm (Chalan Estudia off of Wusstig Road, Yigo)
Register to attend: Email ghall@triton.uog.edu or call (671) 735-2062

**Thursday, July 25**
4pm-6pm
Piti Mayor's Office (260 Assumption Drive)
No registration required

**Presentations:**

**"The Threat of Parasites in Our Pets"**
By Dr. Pin-Chen Liu, Assistant Professor
College of Veterinary Medicine, National Chung Hsing University, Taiwan

**"Canine Nutrition"**
By Dr. Jeng-Hung Liu, Assistant Professor of Animal Sciences
College of Natural & Applied Sciences, University of Guam

**"It's Raining Cats and Dogs: Environmental Public Health, and Economic Impacts of Guam's Stray Animal Problem and How to 'Fix' It"**
By Alison Hadley, Executive Director
Guam Animals in Need (GAIN)

**"Basic Home Grooming"**
By Poochanee Patipenung, Owner
Happy Pooch Groom & Board

For more information, contact Glenda Hall at ghall@triton.uog.edu or call (671) 735-2062. ***(PR)***

# Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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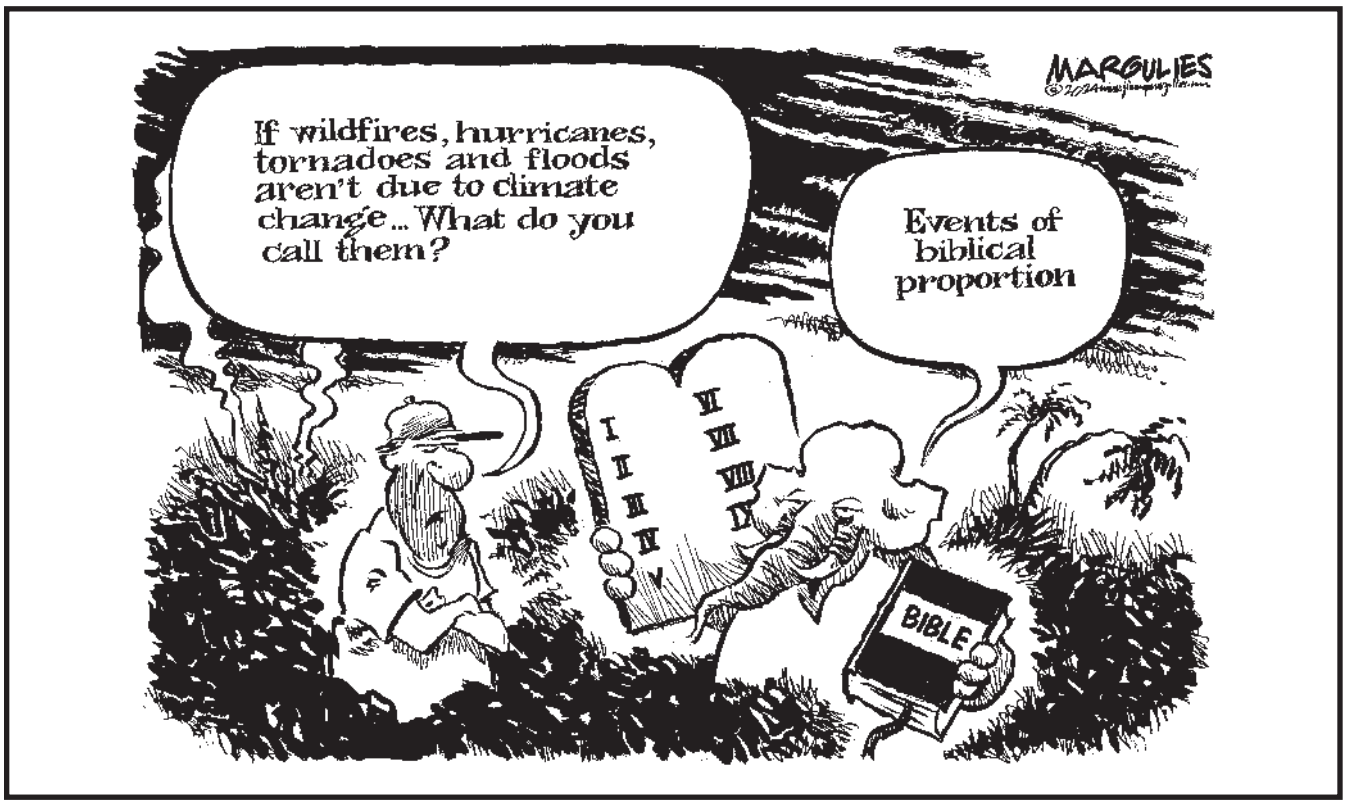
If wildfires, hurricanes, tornadoes and floods aren't due to climate change... What do you call them?
Events of biblical proportion
MARGULIES
I II III IV V VI VII VIII IX X
BIBLE

## EDITORIAL

# One casualty of the 2024 campaign? Budgetary sanity

Somewhat lost in this turbulent election season, America's bipartisan experiment in budgetary fantasy is racing ahead. Both 2024 presidential candidates seem content to carry on with the charade.

Restraint is not among Donald Trump's virtues, and when it came to government spending, he never even tried. After pledging to eliminate the national debt over eight years, he instead bargained and blundered his way into an additional $8.4 trillion in net 10-year borrowing. By the end of his term, projected deficits (over the decade from 2017) had increased by $3.9 trillion, debt exceeded 100% of gross domestic product for the first time since World War II, and the trust funds that support Medicare and Social Security were speeding toward insolvency.

A second term would be unlikely to improve on this picture. One of Trump's few concrete policy proposals would be to extend the expiring provisions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. That would cost more than $5 trillion over 10 years and increase debt by 14% of GDP. Reducing the corporate rate to 20% from 21% (as Trump recently mooted) would add billions more. Then there's his proposed "Trump middle-class, upper-class, lower-class, business-class, big tax cut," cost unknowable.

Lately, Trump has also toyed with the idea of replacing the income tax with revenue from much higher tariffs. This would be a quintuply bad idea. It would (like all such barriers) raise consumer prices, invite retaliation, reduce employment and impede economic growth. But it would also worsen the fiscal picture egregiously: Even under hugely favorable assumptions, tariff income could make up only about 40% of current income-tax revenue, with the rest presumably made up by borrowing. Scaling the tax cut to match tariff income might mitigate this effect, but the disproportionate impact on low-income households and needless economic disruption would remain.

In fairness, Trump has hinted that he might consider entitlement reform. ("There's tremendous amounts of things and numbers of things you can do.") But he has also said, in a campaign video, "Under no circumstances should Republicans vote to cut a single penny from Medicare or Social Security." A serious effort to make either program financially sound will require the kind of foresight, prudence and political shrewdness that was nowhere in evidence during Trump's first term. Add in a Republican-backed plan to boost defense spending, likely to cost $6 trillion, and a second term looks potentially ruinous.

President Joe Biden—who insists he is remaining in the race—hasn't fared much better on this score. He reached a $1.5 trillion deficit-reduction deal with Republicans last year, and he has talked about raising taxes on businesses and the wealthy. Yet his plans also add costly new credits and complexities, and what savings they might accrue could well be

*See ONE on Page 7*

# There's only one right response to the Trump shooting

**By HELEN UBIÑAS**
The Philadelphia Inquirer

I was boarding a plane from Los Angeles back home to Philadelphia when the news hit that former President Donald Trump had been injured during a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania.

The details were sketchy, but the responses online and on the plane were already wild—and entirely predictable.

This is precisely the kind of thing that's juicy fodder for the social media chaos machine: Take an event about which we know little, and watch the flags unfurl.

"Someone just attempted to assassinate Trump!" one passenger said as I scrolled through X. (I was waiting for full details.) "Did they get him?" another passenger asked as X posters began already declaring Trump—dead or alive—a hero. (It appeared that whatever it was had hit him in the ear.) "He's dead?" (Again, he was not.)

In fact, not long after the incident, Trump's campaign said in a statement that he was "fine" after being rushed off the stage after gunshots rang out. Later reports said one rally attendee was killed, two other spectators were critically wounded, and the alleged shooter was dead.

An AR-style rifle—you know, the kind used in mass killings including that of 19 children and two teachers in Uvalde, Texas, and 10 Black shoppers at a supermarket in Buffalo, New York—was recovered at the scene.

After the shooting, though, most of the responses focused strictly on Trump, and regardless of the poster's politics, it was not our finest moment.

Opponents bemoaned that it was a failed attempt: "You had one job..."

Supporters, meanwhile, took the opportunity to declare their man indestructible, all but guaranteed reelection in November.

But not so fast.

I am, and will continue to be, a vocal opponent of Trump and his vile and ongoing violent rhetoric, including the kind that led to the assault on the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. But the only response here isn't to make Trump a god or a goat: It is to declare, once and for all, that we will finally stop pledging our allegiance to guns more than to one another.

Each day in the United States, upward of 200 people are wounded by guns and more than 110 are killed, according to Everytown for Gun Safety.

Any other response from anyone who wants to lead our country is not just unacceptable but should be grounds for considering them unfit to lead.

As I write this, Trump posted on Truth Social his gratitude for law enforcement officers and expressed his condolences for the person who was killed and those injured. "I was shot with a bullet that pierced the upper part of my right ear," he wrote. "I knew immediately that something was wrong in that I heard a whizzing sound, shots, and immediately felt the bullet ripping through the skin. Much bleeding took place, so I realized then what was happening. GOD BLESS AMERICA!"

I feel beyond ridiculous hoping that this incident might change the heart and mind of a man who just last year said mass shootings are not "a gun problem" as he and other would-be GOP presidential nominees pledged loyalty to the National Rifle Association. In fact, he vowed to defend and expand gun-owner rights in his May keynote speech to the NRA's annual meeting.

"I was proud to be the most pro-gun, pro-Second Amendment president you've ever had in the White House," Trump said to an audience that leapt to its feet, cheered, and chanted "U-S-A" when he was introduced. "And with your support in 2024, I will be your loyal friend and fearless champion once again as the 47th president of the United States."

Moments after Saturday's attack, bipartisan responses rightly condemned the shooting.

President Joe Biden, who said he'd tried to reach Trump, said there was "no place in America for this kind of violence. It's sick... it's sick. It's one of the reasons why we have to unite this country. We cannot allow this to be happening. We cannot be like this. We cannot condone this."

And yet, we do—every single day in every single corner of this country.

Biden's remarks were brief, and almost pitch perfect in a moment that was still unfolding.

"The idea that there is political violence or violence in America like this is just unheard of, is just not appropriate," he said. "Everybody, everybody must condemn it."

Of all the comments pouring in after the shooting, what grabbed my attention came from former Democrat U.S. Rep. Gabby Giffords, whose life was forever changed after a 2011 assassination attempt that killed six people and left her partly paralyzed and unable to speak fluently.

"Political violence is terrifying. I know," she said. "I'm holding former President Trump, and all those affected by today's indefensible act of violence in my heart. Political violence is un-American and is never acceptable — never."

Until this moment, the trajectory of this presidential campaign has been nothing short of horrifying on many levels

*See TRUMP on Page 7*

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# From Firewood to Stove Top

**By JHAYLIN CRUZ**
Special to the Tribune

*This essay written by Jhaylin Cruz won her first place in the NMI Humanities Council's recent Marianas Writing Contest.*

Born and raised in La Union, Philippines, in the early '70s, my mother's childhood was marked by the rhythms of agrarian life on a rice farm. She toiled the fields planting cash crops such as tobacco, herded goats for milk, and, most importantly, learned how to cook. Growing up in the midst of poverty, her family struggled to make ends meet while cultivating their small farming property. Despite the financial hardships, my mother and grandmother cooked their family meals in a rustic clay pot over an open fire, fueled by firewood foraged from the surrounding jungle. This humble upbringing instilled in them a deep appreciation for Filipino cuisine, with flavorful aromas and mouth-watering recipes like adobo, tinola, sinigang, and pinakbet becoming staples of our family's table. These dishes, passed down through our family, serve as a testament to the enduring resilience of our culinary heritage. As my mother eventually built her own family on Saipan, she carried with her the recipes and traditions that have shaped our cultural identity.

The family and home that she built was immersed in the traditional flavors and aromas of the food she would create. Stir-fried kangkong, sinigang, nilaga—these were not just dishes, but threads that wove together the fabric of our family's identity. The foundation of our home was centered around cooking and the food she made. Despite the richness of our culinary tradition, I found myself hesitant to embrace the kitchen. Cooking was never a subject I displayed any interest in. Don't get me wrong, I love to eat but growing up I saw cooking as an arduous and daunting task where my fingertips would be exposed to the sharp edge of a kitchen knife and the flames of a portable gas burner. One wrong move and these thin precisely sharpened pieces of metal could sever my fingers in half as if they were baby carrots. Being in a room with a knife riddled my body with anxiety. A maelstrom of hypothetical situations and "what ifs" would cloud my mind whenever a knife was within my vicinity. Furthermore, loading a new piece of "gas" as what my dad would say, felt like I was being forced to reload a browning machine gun in the middle of a war. Having to push down on the control button in order to enable the use of fuel was terrifying. All my attempts at operating a portable stove would come to an abrupt stop because of the hissing and clicking sounds that would dissuade any further contact with the gas burner. My 10-year-old self strongly believed that with one wrong move, the gas burner would explode and engulf my house in flames.

With the implications of having to deal with kitchen knives and portable gas burners, my mom would always foster some sort of encouragement for me to be involved in cooking. She would tell stories about how her mother would teach her how to cook and how the embers of the fire would sometimes fly toward her leaving blotches of ash on her arms and face. While she would always ask me and my siblings "what do you want for your ulam?" My 10-year-old self would always respond with a consistent yet straightforward answer of "I don't know." To which she would reply with a delectable pot or plate of traditional Filipino food on the table with freshly cooked rice. The food she made always reminded me of the food I would ask for at Sabalu Market but never got because my mom could make it at home; that she could make it better.

However, this culinary era of home-made meals would come to an abrupt halt with unforeseen challenges and hardships. My mother suffered a stroke in the summer of 2019. Coupled with the fact that her CW-1 visa had expired, the possibility of losing my mother threatened the foundation of my home and the meals that we cherished. Little did I know that this possibility would soon become reality. My mom was deported to the Philippines because of her immigration status and which was followed by our urgent and desperate need for cheaper healthcare. To top it all off I never got to say goodbye. There was no goodbye hug or get well soon because I was dropped off at daycare during her departure. I had never received the closure or reassurance that she would make a full recovery. With my mother's absence me and my older sister were thrust into the sphere of maturity where we were forced to take upon the responsibilities she once endured.

My older sister took upon the role as the caregiver in my family. Given our situation, I had no choice but to learn how to cook in order to alleviate the strain of our household duties.

Then came COVID. Two weeks. Two weeks of quarantine turned into months of isolation where my mental and emotional well-being deteriorated and was driven to the edge of an abyss. I clung onto the hope of one day being able to see my mom again and show her that I had gained the confidence to be able to operate a stove and use a kitchen knife in order to make the same meals she raised us on. As time passed, my culinary fears subsided from the constant practice of cooking food that is customary toward our Filipino taste buds. This perpetual cycle of cooking and contributing to my family has instilled a great sense of confidence in the culinary arts and has built resilience and independence in the face of uncertainty. The uncertainty that I would never see my mom again.

Yet, after three and a half years of her absence and not having a mother within the most crucial stages of life, my family was able to attain the necessary funds to finance her journey back to Saipan. What began as a necessity soon blossomed into a journey of self-discovery and empowerment, as I discovered the joy of creating meals that honored our cultural heritage which had ignited a newly found passion for the culinary arts—a catalyst that has been the drive and ambition to apply at a local Italian themed restaurant called The Angry Penne. I thought to myself "it wouldn't hurt to try." Little did I know three weeks from then, I would be wearing all black with a white hat and an apron from Ace Hardware learning how to make pasta from scratch in the pastry room at the back of the restaurant. From making pasta and pizza dough to preparing fresh ingredients used in the restaurant, I was immersed in the flavors and aromas that were made in the kitchen using industrial appliances and technology which was foreign compared to the minimal cooking equipment I grew up on. However, cooking and being exposed to the inner mechanisms of a high-end restaurant has allowed me to dedicate my newly refined skills toward embracing the traditional recipes curated at home. The industrial sized machinery, grocery hauls with ingredients worth hundreds of dollars, and even working right next to a 750-degree oven is reflective of my journey from starting with just a portable gas burner and a dull 8-inch kitchen knife.

My familiarity with Italian cuisine has strengthened my palette and enjoyment of traditional Filipino flavors and recipes, inspiring me to connect back with my roots—to connect back with the spoon-full of sinigang and nilaga that have raised both me and my mom. Though far removed from the rustic clay pots and open fires of my mother's childhood, the lessons learned in her kitchen proved invaluable as I navigated the fast-paced industry of professional cooking. The Filipino culture, heritage, and food that my mother and I cherish is not just shared among Filipinos, but it is also part of the unique recipes that make up the diverse array flavors enjoyed here in the Marianas. From humble beginnings on a rice farm in the Philippines to the bustling kitchens of Saipan, the flavors and aromas of Filipino food have remained a constant presence in my life and have bound me to my cultural heritage and shaped the person I have become. Food ignites our community's passion for shared struggles, beliefs, values, and unifies us through a shared commonality. As I continue on my culinary journey, I am filled with gratitude for the traditions and values instilled in me by my mother and grandmother, and the enduring significance of Filipino food in our lives.

## TRUMP

*From page 6*

— and that includes today. It is beyond tragic that an audience member, exercising their right to support their chosen candidate, lost their life.

But today, if we are talking about anything other than ending gun violence in this country, we are simply lying in wait for the next horror.

## ONE

*From page 6*

negated by his pledge to extend the 2017 tax cuts for households making less than $400,000 a year, a policy that would imply some $1.4 trillion in additional borrowing. All told, these measures simply aren't commensurate to the task.

The splurge the U.S. undertook during the pandemic was mostly justified. It's one reason the economy is doing as well as it is. Problem is, such profligacy has become the new normal. As a recent report from the Congressional Budget Office shows, the nation's debt will soon exceed 106% of GDP, yet another record. Neither candidate seems willing to state the obvious: America's current fiscal path leads to disaster.

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# July 17 is National Hot Dog Day

### A Hotdog Returns/Dyspeptic Heartburn (2013)

They sold me right after I cooked because my smell
to them seemed piquant and delicious in the air
that aroma slowly wafting everywhere
with its warm succulent fragrance casting a spell
all around until no nose would have a nostril
that had not had its nasal passages stirred.
Then its neural receptors in the gray matter
sent everyone a most mouthwatering message
from me. Pile those hotdogs high on the platter.
But this boiled world is not my only visage.
Indeed one might say this frankfurter sometimes frys
I should acknowledge my Viennese heritage
and love for my Italian and Polish sausage allies.
Perhaps, once, with sweet relish, I dreamed of mustard.

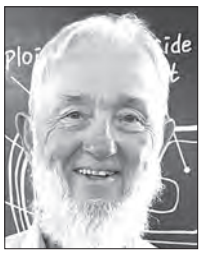
*Here is a parody of "You Ain't Nothing But a Hound Dog," a popular 1950's song recorded by Big Mama Thornton and Elvis Presley. This sonnet is from 07/18/2019.*

### You Ain't Nothing But a Hotdog

You ain't nothing but a hotdog and a bun
chowin down, just a going down my throat
you ain't nothing but three big chili dogs
guarantee gonna make my stomach bloat
some say you're a high-class Viennese sausage cat
a plump Polish sausage cousin or some spicy hot Italian
but you're a Texas hot a skinny weiner dog or fat
on top I want mustard, chopped onions or scallions
gotta have you any way boiled, steamed, or fried
gotta have at least two or three of you going inside
gotta have you at the ballpark, BBQ, or nearest beach
just gotta have you and your soft buns in my reach
you ain't nothing but a hotdog with yellow mustard
finish you off with some soft vanilla custard.

## LITERARY NOOK

**By JOEY CONNOLLY**
Special to the Saipan Tribune



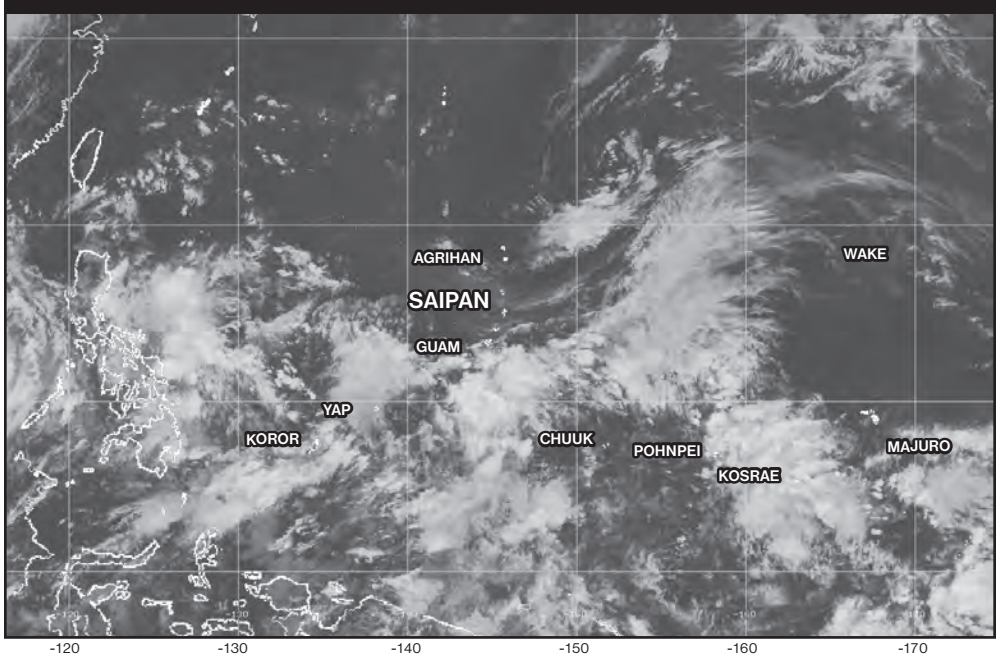
*Joey Connolly aka "Pepe Batbon" is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is the Poet Laureate of Tinian and enjoys stargazing.*

# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

| TODAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Scattered showers. Mostly cloudy. | A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, | A 40 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy. | A chance of showers. Partly sunny. | A chance of showers. Partly sunny. |
| 84° 78° | 85° 79° | 86° 79° | 87° 79° | 87° 79° |

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE




**PICTURE TIME: 6:40 AM TUESDAY, JULY 16, 2024**

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Little change in the forecast, expecting moderate to fresh winds with near gale gusts in showers to the north and east of the mosnoon trough. Seas of 4 to 6 feet will increase to between 5 and 7 feet over the next day or two. A moderate risk of rip currents will continue along east facing reefs through at least Sunday.

*Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/*

| MICRONESIA | | ▲ ▼ °F |
|---|---|---|
| Guam and Rota | Thunderstorm | 86° / 78° |
| Palau | Thunderstorm | 85° / 77° |
| Yap | Mostly Cloudy | 85° / 78° |
| Chuuk | Thunderstorm | 85° / 79° |
| Pohnpei | Rain | 85° / 77° |
| Kosrae | Rain | 85° / 77° |
| Majuro | Thunderstorm | 85° / 79° |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 5:55 AM | 6:50 PM |
| Thursday | 5:55 AM | 6:50 PM |
| Friday | 5:55 AM | 6:50 PM |
| Saturday | 5:56 AM | 6:50 PM |
| Sunday | 5:56 AM | 6:50 PM |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Today | - | 1:37 AM | 2:59 PM |
| Thursday | - | 2:24 AM | 3:57 PM |
| Friday | - | 3:17 AM | 4:57 PM |
| Saturday | - | 4:16 AM | 5:57 PM |
| Sunday | - | 5:19 AM | 6:54 PM |

| AROUND THE GLOBE | | ▲ ▼ °F |
|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Rain | 57° / 54° |
| Beijing | Partly Cloudy | 91° / 73° |
| Hong Kong | Thunderstorm | 90° / 82° |
| Honolulu | Mostly Cloudy | 87° / 75° |
| London | Mostly Cloudy | 66° / 57° |
| Los Angeles | Sunny | 81° / 62° |
| Manila | Thunderstorm | 93° / 79° |
| Melbourne | Partly Cloudy | 55° / 39° |
| Miami | Partly Cloudy | 88° / 80° |
| New York | Partly Cloudy | 80° / 70° |
| Osaka | Showers | 97° / 81° |
| Paris | Cloudy | 72° / 57° |
| Busan | Partly Cloudy | 75° / 66° |
| Rome | Partly Cloudy | 86° / 70° |
| Salem | Partly Cloudy | 94° / 74° |
| San Francisco | Partly Cloudy | 84° / 54° |
| Seoul | Partly Cloudy | 84° / 66° |
| Tokyo | Showers | 73° / 66° |
| Washington, DC | Mostly Sunny | 93° / 74° |

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY | | FEET |
|---|---|---|
| 2:49 AM | High Tide | 1.89 |
| 10:37 AM | Low Tide | 0.23 |
| 6:17 PM | High Tide | 1.74 |
| 10:33 PM | Low Tide | 1.49 |

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 1, 2024

### DEPARTURES

**SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA076 | 9:50AM | 10:35AM | Daily |

**SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA824 | 11:50AM | 2:25PM | 1, 3, 5 |

**GUAM-MANILA (MNL)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| PR 111 | 5:55AM | 7:55AM | Daily |
| UA193 | 6:50PM | 10:55PM | 2, 5 via Palau |
| UA183 | 7:10PM | 9:10PM | Daily |

**SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3403/2305 | 4:45AM | 10:20PM | Daily |
| UA076/183 | 9:50AM | 9:10PM | Daily via Guam |
| UA076/193 | 9:50AM | 10:55PM | 2, 5 via Guam, Palau |

**SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| TW308 | 3:15AM | 7:00AM | Daily |
| 7C3403 | 4:45AM | 8:35AM | Daily |
| 7C3405 | 4:10PM | 7:45PM | Daily |
| 7C3471 | 5:50PM | 9:30PM | Daily from July 17 |

**SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| HX77 | 4:05AM | 7:00AM | 1, 5 |

### ARRIVALS

**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA174 | 8:00AM | 8:50AM | Daily |

**NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA825 | 5:30PM | 9:55PM | 2, 4, 7 |

**MANILA (MNL)-GUAM**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA184 | 10:25PM | 4:20AM+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| UA192 | 10:25PM | 6:15AM+1 | 2, 5 via Palau |
| PR110 | 10:30PM | 4:25AM+1 | Daily |
| UA184 | 11:50PM | 5:45AM+1 | 2, 5 |

**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA192/174 | 10:25PM | 8:50AM+1 | 2, 5 via Palau, Guam |
| UA184/174 | 10:25PM | 8:50AM +1 | 1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam |
| 7C2306/3406 | 11:10PM | 3:10PM+1 | Daily |
| UA184/174 | 11:50PM | 8:50AM +1 | 2, 5 via Guam |

**INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3406 | 9:30AM | 3:10PM | Daily |
| 7C3472 | 11:05AM | 4:40PM | Daily |
| TW307 | 8:30PM | 2:15AM+1 | Daily |
| 7C3404 | 10:10PM | 3:40AM+1 | Daily |

**HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| HX76 | 7:25PM | 2:35AM+1 | 4, 7 |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

**SAIPAN TO ROTA**

| FLIGHT # | FROM | TO | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1301 | SAIPAN | ROTA | 08:30 | 09:00 | Daily |
| 1302 | SAIPAN | ROTA | 10:30 | 11:00 | Daily |
| 1303 | SAIPAN | ROTA | 15:30 | 16:00 | Daily |

**ROTA TO SAIPAN**

| FLIGHT # | FROM | TO | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3101 | ROTA | SAIPAN | 9:30 | 10:00 | Daily |
| 3102 | ROTA | SAIPAN | 11:30 | 12:00 | Saturday & Sunday |
| 3103 | ROTA | SAIPAN | 13:30 | 14:00 | Monday To Friday |
| 3104 | ROTA | SAIPAN | 16:30 | 17:00 | Daily |

**ROTA TO GUAM**

| FLIGHT # | FROM | TO | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3401 | ROTA | GUAM | 11:30 | 12:00 | Monday To Friday |

**GUAM TO ROTA**

| FLIGHT # | FROM | TO | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4301 | GUAM | ROTA | 12:30 | 13:00 | Monday To Friday |

**SAIPAN TO TINIAN**

| FLIGHT # | FROM | TO | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1201 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 7:30 | 7:45 | Daily |
| 1202 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 8:00 | 8:15 | Daily |
| 1203 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 9:00 | 9:15 | Daily |
| 1204 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 10:00 | 10:15 | Daily |
| 1206 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 14:00 | 14:15 | Daily |
| 1207 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 15:00 | 15:15 | Daily |
| 1208 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 16:00 | 16:15 | Daily |
| 1209 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 17:00 | 17:15 | Daily |

**TINIAN TO SAIPAN**

| FLIGHT # | FROM | TO | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2101 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 8:00 | 8:15 | Daily |
| 2102 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 8:30 | 8:45 | Daily |
| 2103 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 9:30 | 9:45 | Daily |
| 2104 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 10:30 | 10:45 | Daily |
| 2106 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 14:30 | 14:45 | Daily |
| 2107 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 15:30 | 15:45 | Daily |
| 2108 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 16:30 | 16:45 | Daily |
| 2109 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 17:30 | 17:45 | Daily |

# Business

# Renamed, relocated CannaSaipan holds grand opening

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

CannaSaipan Dispensary & Lounge and VaprSpot held their grand opening last Saturday morning in Beach Road, Garapan.

Louis Rodgers, the owner of VaprSpot, who previously owned Canna Marianas on the second floor of the IT&E building along Chalan Laulau Road, moved his business to a new location last July 8 at the corner of Beach Road, Garapan beside Salt & Barber Shop.

"I'm formerly the owner of Canna Marianas. My wife and I are going to be moving to the mainland, so we saw the opportunity for us to be able to just go ahead and close that retail location down. The location really wasn't a key location after IT&E moved in, you know, trying to compete with parking but ultimately, we decided we're going to close," said Rodgers.

Canna Marianas was a pioneering cannabis shop that opened in 2021.

The Canna Marianas is now CannaSaipan Dispensary & Lounge under the ownership of Connie Palacios. Rodgers mentioned that their almost year-long professional relationship started when he helped Palacios with her farm in Obyan located by Ladder Beach.

"With Canna Marianas it was just me but when Connie was looking to get into the cannabis industry, she came to us to seek some guidance. Since then, we've been pretty much working hand in hand," said Rodgers.

Rodgers pointed out that vape shops and cannabis stores complement each other.

"Before even at the old location, we had a vape shop in Canna Marianas and now we have the vape shop in CannaSaipan and the two really work hand in hand. They're both niche markets because not everybody vapes or uses these cigs and not everybody smokes cannabis in the broader market so they kind of pair well together. They do complement each other and from a business standpoint and just having that inside of here also helps to support operational costs, business issues, and stuff like that," said Rodgers.

Rodgers also added that the Saipan market now is going through some challenges and he was hoping for the CNMI Cannabis Commission to conduct some marketing initiatives.

"I mean, cannabis is relatively new. Our Cannabis Commission is still learning some things I think that would help to maybe drive customers and maybe relax the stigmas that are out there. If there was some marketing done by the Cannabis Commission to show that there is support for the industry to generate public awareness. Support our local cannabis industry, which is a local business developed here from the ground up and that would really go a long way to help this industry at least support the economy. It's not going to be as big as ever as the tourism industry, but it's still a homegrown industry, and we need more things. Homegrown industries could probably help bolster the CNMI."

Three of Louis Rodgers' staff members were moved to CannaSaipan after the shutdown of Canna Marianas. He also mentioned that they will be hiring two more to cover the hours that they are open.

The event, which was attended by friends and families, started with the ribbon cutting at 11am, followed by a Judas Belt fireworks display for more than three minutes. It concluded with guests getting a tour inside the shop.

CannaSaipan Dispensary & Lounge and VaprSpot is open from Monday to Saturday, 11am-7pm, and Sunday, 12pm-6pm. For more information, call (670) 234-8277.

PHOTOS BY RACQUEL FLOYD

New CannaSaipan Dispensary & Lounge and VprSpot's new location in Beach Road, Garapan.

A Judas Belt fireworks was lit during the grand opening of New CannaSaipan Dispensary & Lounge.

From left, VaprSpot owner Louis Rodgers, Min Rui, niece of CannaSaipan owner Congxiang "Connie" Su Palacios, and Palacios pose after the ribbon-cutting ceremony last Saturday during the grand opening of the new location.

A tour inside the CannaSaipan Dispensary & Lounge for the guests followed the fireworks display.

Owners and staff pose for the camera, from left, CannaSaipan Dispensary & Lounge owner Congxiang "Connie" Su Palacios, staff April Chipwelong, Victoria Edyn, and Roger Renguul, and VaprSpot owner Louis Rodgers.

VaprSpot owner Louis Rodgers shows his two hot movers, Ice Cream and Pink Runtz.

# Amazon Prime Day is big event for scammers, experts warn

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Amazon Prime Day is here, and experts are reminding consumers to be wary of scams.

Deceptions such as phony emails from people impersonating online retailers like Amazon are nothing new. But phishing attempts increase amid the heavy spending seen during significant sales events, whether it's Black Friday or Prime Day, according to the Better Business Bureau.

"This is a huge moment on the retail calendar," Josh Planos, vice president of communications and public relations at the Better Business Bureau, previously told The Associated Press. "And because of that, it represents an enormous opportunity for a scammer, con artist or even just an unethical business or organization to capitalize on the moment and separate folks from their hard-earned money."

Prime Day, a two-day discount event for Amazon Prime members, kicks off on Tuesday and runs through Wednesday. In updated guidance published last week, the Better Business Bureau reminded consumers to watch out for lookalike websites, too-good-to-be-true social media ads, and unsolicited emails or calls during sales events this month.

Consumers might need to be more vigilant this year than ever before. In June, the Better Business Bureau published a report that said it received a record number of phishing reports in 2023. Reports are also trending up so far this year, the organization said.

Meanwhile, in a report released this month, the Israel-founded cybersecurity company Check Point Software Technologies said more than 1,230 new websites that associated themselves with Amazon popped up in June. The vast majority of them were malicious or appeared suspicious, according to Check Point.

# Powell says Federal Reserve is more confident inflation is slowing to its target

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Chair Jerome Powell said Monday that the Federal Reserve is becoming more convinced that inflation is headed back to its 2% target and said the Fed would cut rates before the pace of price increases actually reached that point.

"We've had three better readings, and if you average them, that's a pretty good pace," Powell said of inflation in a question-and-answer question at the Economic Club of Washington. Those figures, he said, "do add somewhat to confidence" that inflation is slowing sustainably.

Powell declined to provide any hints of when the first rate cut would occur. But most economists foresee the first cut occurring in September, and after Powell's remarks Wall Street traders boosted their expectation that the Fed would reduce its key rate then from its 23-year high. The futures markets expect additional rate cuts in November and December.

"Today," Powell said, "I'm not going to send any signals on any particular meeting."

Rate reductions by the Fed would, over time, reduce consumers' borrowing costs for things like mortgages, auto loans, and credit cards.

Last week, the government reported that consumer prices declined slightly from May to June, bringing inflation down to a year-over-year rate of 3%, from 3.3% in May. So-called "core" prices, which exclude volatile energy and food costs and often provide a better read of where inflation is likely headed, climbed 3.3% from a year earlier, below 3.4% in May.

In his remarks Monday, Powell stressed that the Fed did not need to wait until inflation actually reached 2% to cut borrowing costs.

"If you wait until inflation gets all the way down to 2%, you've probably waited too long," Powell said, because it takes time for the Fed's policies to affect the economy.

Powell also commented on the attempted assassination of former President Donald Trump Saturday, saying it was a "sad day for our country" and adding that violence had no place in U.S. politics.

# Nation

## Trump picks JD Vance as his GOP running mate

**MILWAUKEE** (AP)—Former President Donald Trump chose Sen. JD Vance of Ohio as his running mate on Monday, picking a onetime critic who became a loyal ally and is now the first millennial to join a major-party ticket at a time of deep concern about the advanced age of America's political leaders.

"After lengthy deliberation and thought, and considering the tremendous talents of many others, I have decided that the person best suited to assume the position of Vice President of the United States is Senator J.D. Vance of the Great State of Ohio," Trump said in a post on his Truth Social network as the Republican National Convention got underway in Milwaukee.

AP

Republican vice presidential candidate Sen. JD Vance, R-Ohio, arrives on the floor during the first day of the 2024 Republican National Convention at the Fiserv Forum, Monday, July 15, 2024, in Milwaukee.

Hours later, Vance formally received his party's formal nomination after walking onto the floor of the convention to Merle Haggard's "American First." He and Trump—who had a large bandage on his right ear after Saturday's shooting—sat next to each other in Trump's box during the convention's opening night program.

The 39-year-old Vance rose to national fame with the 2016 publication of his memoir, "Hillbilly Elegy." He was elected to the Senate in 2022 and has become one of the staunchest champions of the former president's "Make America Great Again" agenda, particularly on trade, foreign policy and immigration.

But he is largely untested in national politics and is joining the Trump ticket at an extraordinary moment in American history. An attempted assassination of Trump at a rally Saturday has shaken the campaign, bringing new attention to the nation's coarse political rhetoric and reinforcing the importance of those who are one heartbeat away from the presidency.

Vance himself faced criticism in the wake of the shooting for a post on X that suggested President Joe Biden was to blame for the violence.

"The central premise of the Biden campaign is that President Donald Trump is an authoritarian fascist who must be stopped at all costs," Vance wrote. "That rhetoric led directly to President Trump's attempted assassination."

Law enforcement has not yet specified a motivation for the shooting.

Why Vance was chosen over the other finalists

The pick is sure to energize Trump's loyal base. Vance has become a fixture on the conservative media circuit and frequently spars with reporters on Capitol Hill, helping establish him as the kind of leader who could carry Trump's mantle into the future, beginning with the next presidential election in 2028.

## Border arrests plunge 29% in June to lowest of Biden's presidency as asylum halt takes hold

**SAN DIEGO** (AP)—Arrests for illegally crossing the border from Mexico plunged 29% in June, the lowest month of Joe Biden's presidency, according to figures released Monday that provide another window on the impact of a new rule to temporarily suspend asylum.

Arrests totaled 83,536 in June, down from 117,901 in May to mark the lowest tally since January 2021, U.S. Customs and Border Protection said.

A seven-day average of daily arrests fell more than half by the end of June from Biden's announcement on June 4 that asylum processing would be halted when daily arrests reach 2,500, which they did immediately, said Troy Miller, acting Customs and Border Protection commissioner.

"Recent border security measures have made a meaningful impact on our ability to impose consequences for those crossing unlawfully," Miller said.

Arrests had already fallen by more than half from a record high of 250,000 in December, largely a result of increased enforcement by Mexican authorities, according to U.S. officials.

Sharp declines registered across nationalities, including Mexicans, who have been most affected by the suspension of asylum, and Chinese people, who generally fly to Ecuador and travel to the U.S. border over land.

San Diego was the busiest of the Border Patrol's nine sectors bordering Mexico by number of arrests, followed by Tucson, Arizona.

More than 41,000 people entered legally through an online appointment app called CBP One in June. The agency said 680,500 people have successfully scheduled appointments since the app was introduced in January 2023.

## Trump classified documents case junked over concerns with prosecutor's appointment

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—A federal judge in Florida dismissed the classified documents case against former President Donald Trump on Monday, siding with defense lawyers who said the special counsel who filed the charges was illegally appointed by the Justice Department.

Hours later, special counsel Jack Smith's office said it would appeal the order, which could result in it eventually being overturned by a higher court. But for now at least, the dismissal by U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon brings a stunning and abrupt halt to a criminal case that at the time it was filed was widely regarded as the most perilous of all the legal threats the Republican former president confronted.

Though the case had long been stalled, and the prospect of a trial before the November election already nonexistent, the judge's order is a significant legal and political victory for Trump as he recovers from a weekend assassination attempt and prepares to accept the Republican nomination in Milwaukee this week.

It's the latest stroke of good fortune in the four criminal cases Trump has faced. He was convicted in May in his New York hush money trial, but the sentencing has been postponed after a Supreme Court opinion that conferred broad immunity on former presidents. That opinion will cause major delays in a separate case charging Trump with plotting to overturn his 2020 election loss to Democrat Joe Biden. Another election subversion case filed in Atlanta has been delayed by revelations of a romantic relationship between the district attorney and a special prosecutor she hired for the case.

In a statement on his social media platform, Trump said the dismissal "should be just the first step" and the three other cases, which he called "Witch Hunts," should also be thrown out.

The classified documents case had been seen as the most legally clear-cut of the four given the breadth of evidence that prosecutors say they had accumulated, including the testimony of close aides and former lawyers, and because the conduct at issue occurred after Trump left the White House in 2021 and lost the powers of the presidency.

The indictment included dozens of felony counts accusing him of illegally hoarding classified records from his presidency at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Florida, and obstructing FBI efforts to get them back. He had pleaded not guilty and denied wrongdoing.


*Forever in Our Hearts*

†FRANCISCO IWASHITA AQUINO
"Chief"

January 6, 1968 ~ June 22, 2024

Chief is a man of few words with an abundance of love for everyone. His love for his family is pure and beyond words. He loved sharing his knowledge and he did not care for any recognition. He loved helping others and wanted nothing in return. We will never forget our beloved Chief, Uncle Chief. We love you. You will forever be in our hearts.

**In his new life, he now joins:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Father: | †Daniel E. Aquino |
| Parents in Law: | †Joaquin R. & †Grabiela B. Camacho |
| Paternal Grandparents: | †Mariano F. & †Maria E. Aquino |
| Maternal Grandparents: | †Jose A. & †Manuela Lewis Dlc. Blas |
| Grandson: | †Tahitoa Ichiro Sablan Masayos |
| Sisters & Brother in Law: | †Maria C. & †Ricardo C. Castro<br>†Ana B. Camacho |

**His loving Memories will forever live in the hearts of his:**
Wife: Rosa Camacho Aquino
Children: Queanna C. Sablan & John D. Guerrero (Maria, Juan, Izabela & Allie Reiwa); Kristen Amber A. & Brendon Guillot (Penelope & Huxley); Queayla C. Sablan (Tatum Ikluk)

Mother & Father: Maria I. & Felix T. Perez

**Brothers and Sister:**
Daniel I. & Joann T. Aquino & Family
Mariano I. & Leslie C. Aquino & Family
Maria I. Aquino & Family
Antonio I. & Ramina R. Aquino &Family

**In-laws:**
Delfina C. & Joaquin M. Manglona & Family
Agueda B. Camacho & Family

Chief will also be missed by numerous uncles, aunties, cousins, nephews, nieces, godchildren, work family and friends.

Funeral Service will be on Tuesday, July 23, 2024. His remains will leave the Borja Funeral Home at 7:15 am to Kristo Rai Church for prayer service, Holy Rosary, and public viewing. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:30 am. Immediately after mass he will be escorted to the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi where he will peacefully be laid to rest.

Thank you, Un Dångkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'åse, Oloomwaay.

*Rosa C. Aquino, Children and Family*

# Life & Style

## King Charles III to visit Australia, Samoa as he recovers from cancer

**LONDON** (AP)—King Charles III is preparing to visit Australia and Samoa in October, an itinerary that will span 12 time zones and test the monarch's stamina as he recovers from cancer treatment.

The trip, announced on Sunday by Buckingham Palace, marks a watershed moment for the 75-year-old king, who has been slowly returning to public duties after taking a break following his cancer diagnosis in early February. The decision to undertake such a long journey will be seen as a sign of Charles' recovery, even though the program in Australia will be "limited."

The visit to Australia will be a critical moment for the king as he tries to shore up support for the monarchy at home and abroad. The trip will mark the first time since he ascended the throne that Charles will visit one of the 14 countries outside the United Kingdom where the British monarch remains head of state, a link that is a source of pride for some but an unwelcome reminder of Britain's colonial dominance for others.

While he will undoubtedly be welcomed by fans waving the flag and singing "God Save the King," Charles is also likely to hear anti-monarchy voices in a country where 45% of voters in a 1999 referendum supported creating an Australian republic. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's Labor Party supports ditching the monarchy, but the government says it isn't a priority and there is no timeline for another referendum.

AP

Britain's King Charles III and Queen Camilla, wave as they formally bid farewell to Japan's Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako on the final day of their state visit to Britain at Buckingham Palace, London, Thursday, June 27, 2024.

"It's clear that there's a real reevaluation going on there as to whether the Commonwealth, and certainly the realms, want to retain their connection to the British monarchy or not," Ed Owens, a historian and author of "After Elizabeth: Can the Monarchy Save Itself?" told The Associated Press in an interview before the trip was announced. "So, you know, there are troubled waters ahead."

Albanese said he and Governor-General Sam Mostyn, the monarch's representative in Australia, would welcome Charles and Queen Camilla. Albanese noted Charles had already made 15 official visits to Australia, the most recent in 2018. The monarch had also spent several months in an Australian bordering school as a teen in 1966.

"The King has a deep regard for our great nation, and has always spoken warmly of the time he has spent here and the astounding beauty of our extraordinary continent," Albanese said in a statement.

The palace provided few details of the tour. Charles and Camilla will visit the Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales as well as making a more formal state visit to Samoa, where the king will appear at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, the palace said.

The capital territory is home to Canberra, Australia's national capital. Sydney, Australia's largest city, is in New South Wales.

## James Sikking, star of 'Hill Street Blues' and 'Doogie Howser, MD,' dies at 90

James Sikking, who starred as a hardened police lieutenant on "Hill Street Blues" and as the titular character's kindhearted dad on "Doogie Howser, M.D.," has died at 90.

Sikking died of complications from dementia, his publicist Cynthia Snyder said in a statement Sunday evening.

Born the youngest of five children on March 5, 1934 in Los Angeles, his early acting ventures included an uncredited part in Roger Corman's "Five Guns West" and a bit role in an episode of "Perry Mason." He also secured guest spots in a litany of popular 1970s television series, from the action-packed "Mission: Impossible," "M.A.S.H." "The F.B.I.," "The Rockford Files," "Hawaii Five-O" and "Charlie's Angels" to "Eight is Enough" and "Little House on the Prairie."

AP

Actor James Sikking poses for a photograph at the Los Angeles gala celebrating the 20th anniversary of the National Organization for Women, Dec. 1, 1986.

"Hill Street Blues" would debut in 1981, a fresh take on the traditional police procedural. Sikking played Lt. Howard Hunter, a clean-cut Vietnam War veteran who headed the Emergency Action Team of the Metropolitan Police Department in a never-named city.

The acclaimed show was a drama, but Sikking's character's uptight nature and quirks were often used to comic effect. Sikking based his performance on a drill instructor he'd had at basic training when military service cut through his time at the University of California, Los Angeles, from which he graduated in 1959.

"The drill instructor looked like he had steel for hair and his uniform had so much starch in it, you knew it would sit in the corner when he took it off in the barracks," he told The Fresno Bee in 2014, when he did a series of interviews with various publications marking the box set's release.

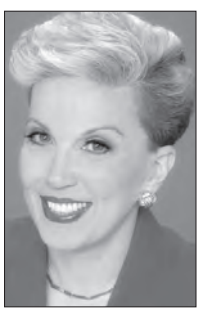
When it debuted on the heels of a Hollywood dual strike, the NBC show was met with low ratings and little fanfare. But the struggling network kept it on the air: "Up popped this word 'demographic,'" Sikking told the Star Tribune in 2014. "We were reaching people with a certain education and (who) made a certain kind of money. They called it the 'Esquire audience.'"

The show ultimately ran until 1987, although for a brief moment it wasn't clear Sikking would make it that far. A December 1983 episode ended with his character contemplating dying by suicide. The cliffhanger drew comparisons to the "Who shot J.R.?" mystery from "Dallas" not long before—although it was quickly resolved when TV supplements accidentally ran a teaser summary that made it clear Hunter had been saved.

"I remember when Howard tried to kill himself. My brother called and asked, 'You still got a job?' I said, 'Yeah,' and he said, 'Oh good,' and then hung up," Sikking told The Fresno Bee.

## Co-worker weighs the wisdom of being a side piece

**DEAR ABBY**
**BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

DEAR ABBY: I met this guy at work. He was everything I'm looking for in a guy. During a lunch walk, he told me about his breakup with his ex and how he moved out and bought a house. He lives with his son and his nephews and their family. The entire two months we dated were amazing. There may have been a couple of red flags my co-worker and friends noticed. He couldn't message me often after work or on weekends, and he was always so busy with his kid we couldn't go on a date. He told me his ex was not in the picture, which I thought was odd since his son is only 2.

I don't know why I decided to do some internet research on him, but I found out he actually is married and bought the house with that "ex." When I confronted him about this, he insisted he had told me about it when we first started talking, which is not true. Now that the cat's out of the bag, he says he's getting back with her "for his son" but still wants me in the picture as his side piece. I fell in love with him, Abby, and he says he loves me, too. I don't think it's right to do this, but I don't want to stop talking to him. Should I block him and move on or stick around since he still wants me?

SIDE PIECE IN CALIFORNIA

**DEAR SIDE PIECE: Close your eyes, dig deep and see if you can feel around and locate a shred of your self-esteem. Why would you be content to be a "side piece" in this philanderer's life? He doesn't love you. I doubt he loves anyone but himself. Do yourself a giant favor: Quit listening to his sales pitch, block him and find someone who can give you the love you crave.**

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Last week my wife and I were at a local function. During intermission, a man walked up behind my wife and placed his hand on her shoulder. She looked up, shouted "George!", jumped out of her chair and was all over him, fondling his face and head. I had to turn away, but our friends continued to watch as the two carried on. She claims it was not inappropriate behavior and that I am just jealous. Is this really a married woman's normal behavior?

WOUNDED IN MISSOURI

**DEAR WOUNDED: Bind your "wound" and let it go. While your wife's reaction may have seemed over-the-top to you, if George is someone your wife cared about and hadn't seen in many years, it wasn't out of the realm of normality for her.**

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My ex-mother-in-law caught wind that my 6-year-old would be getting her first haircut and took it upon herself to trim my daughter's baby curls without telling me so she could keep some for herself. I am livid. She has taken the first birthday, the first Christmas dress, the first pair of shoes. I get that it's her first time being a grandma, but this is MY first and only time being a mom. She is a delicate woman. How do I approach this?

FIRST-TIME MOM

**DEAR FIRST-TIME: Explain to your ex-mother-in-law what you wrote to me, omitting the part about "livid" because she's "delicate." The next time a first approaches, inform her politely that you wish to be consulted before she does anything else involving your daughter.**

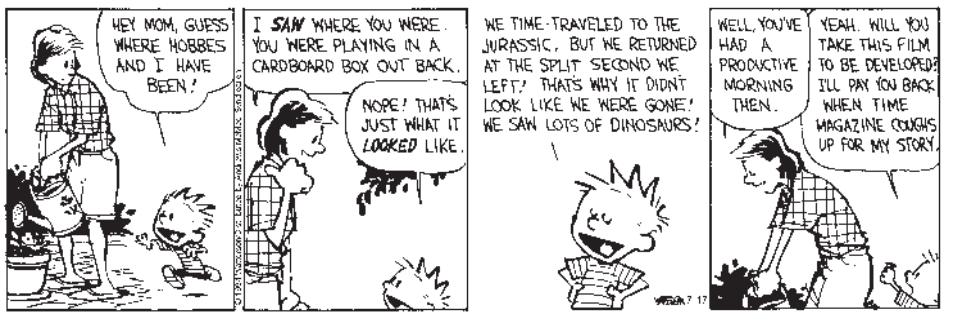
■■■

*What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)*

# Pastimes

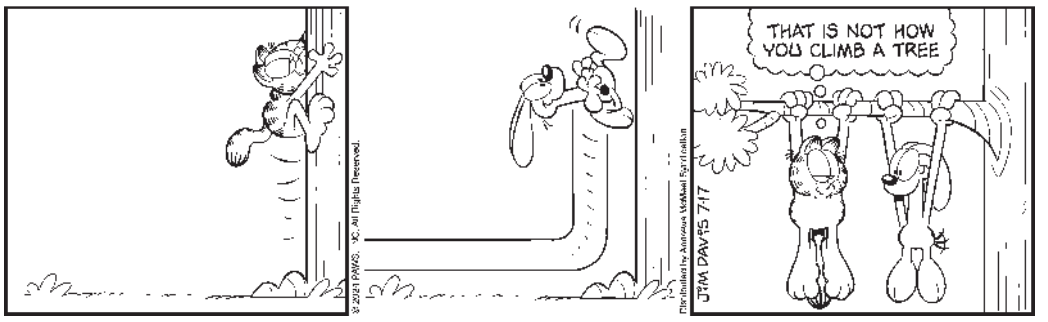
## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HEY MOM, GUESS WHERE HOBBES AND I HAVE BEEN!
I SAW WHERE YOU WERE. YOU WERE PLAYING IN A CARDBOARD BOX OUT BACK.
NOPE! THAT'S JUST WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE.
WE TIME-TRAVELED TO THE JURASSIC. BUT WE RETURNED AT THE SPLIT SECOND WE LEFT. THAT'S WHY IT DIDN'T LOOK LIKE WE WERE GONE! WE SAW LOTS OF DINOSAURS!
WELL, YOU'VE HAD A PRODUCTIVE MORNING THEN.
YEAH. WILL YOU TAKE THIS FILM TO BE DEVELOPED? I'LL PAY YOU BACK WHEN TIME MAGAZINE COUGHS UP FOR MY STORY.

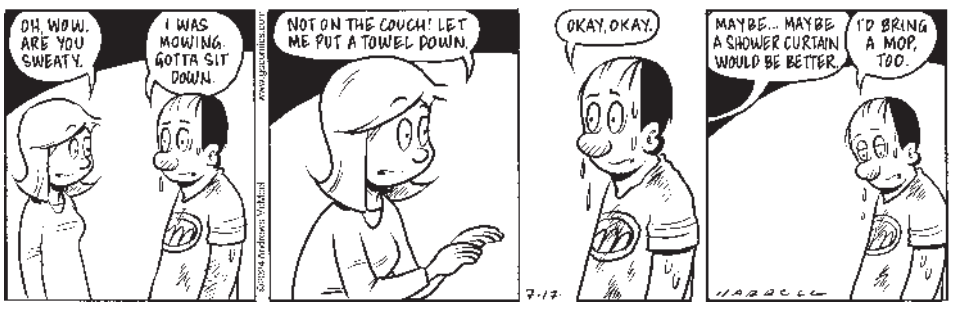
## Garfield®

By Jim Davis




## Adam@Home

By Bryan Basset


OH, WOW. ARE YOU SWEATY.
I WAS MOWING. GOTTA SIT DOWN.
NOT ON THE COUCH! LET ME PUT A TOWEL DOWN.
OKAY, OKAY.
MAYBE... MAYBE A SHOWER CURTAIN WOULD BE BETTER.
I'D BRING A MOP, TOO.

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

REMEMBER THE DOCTOR-PATIENT CONFIDENTIALITY.
YOU CAN TELL ME ANYTHING.
OKAY, I PEED ON THE TIRE OF YOUR LEXUS IN THE PARKING LOT.
I'M GOING TO PRESCRIBE A FULL-BODY CONE.

## CROSSWORD

*By Eugene Sheffer*

**ACROSS**

1 Snip
4 Bullets
8 Post-WWII alliance
12 Pi follower
13 Fly high
14 La Scala solo
15 Couple's pronoun
16 How Godiva traveled, with "on"
18 Main
20 Artist Yoko
21 Earring site
24 Follows orders
28 Scenic route, often
32 Halt
33 Past
34 Andrea —
36 Cavs, on scoreboards
37 Alum
39 USO performance
41 "Paradise Lost" figure
43 Drifting ice
44 Shaft of light
46 Poe's bird
50 Equine performer
55 World Cup cheer
56 Sushi wrapper
57 Woodland grazer
58 One of the five W's
59 King of the jungle
60 Wood choppers
61 Fall from grace

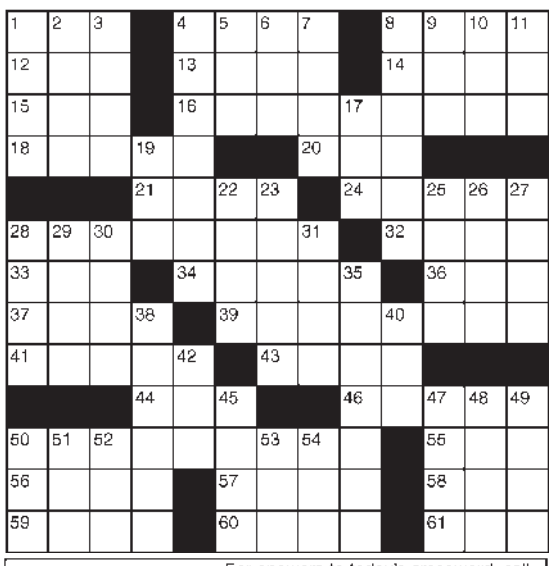
**DOWN**

1 Gator's kin
2 "Nope!"
3 Actress Spelling
4 Simpson's singing partner
5 Cattle call
6 Spoil
7 Approximately
8 Bigwigs
9 Altar in the sky
10 Spasm
11 Sturdy tree
17 Rock's Brian
19 Antlered animal
22 Rude dude
23 — corn (picnic food)
25 Engrave
26 Texter's "carpe diem"
27 Gush
28 Satchels
29 Taj Mahal city
30 Paint layer
31 Old radio part
35 Worshipful ones
38 Evolution expert
40 Briny expanse
42 Slangy denial
45 Luke's mentor
47 Promises
48 K thru 12
49 Inert gas
50 NBC comedy revue
51 — polloi
52 Acapulco gold
53 Actor Harrison
54 "Get it?"

**Solution time: 23 mins.**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | R | M | Y | ■ | S | O | B | S | ■ | B | E | I |
| L | O | G | O | ■ | T | R | A | Y | ■ | A | A | II |
| B | I | R | D | B | A | T | II | S | ■ | N | S | A |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | E | O | N | S | ■ | T | O | K | E | N |
| P | A | B | L | O | ■ | ■ | S | E | H | B | ■ | ■ |
| F | R | A | S | ■ | F | I | L | M | G | O | F | R |
| R | O | D | ■ | I | F | V | I | S | ■ | O | D | F |
| U | N | B | I | A | S | E | D | ■ | S | K | I | P |
| ■ | ■ | R | A | D | S | ■ | ■ | O | A | S | E | S |
| T | E | E | N | Y | ■ | H | U | R | T | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| A | T | A | ■ | B | E | E | R | B | E | L | L | Y |
| I | N | K | ■ | U | G | L | I | ■ | L | G | A | D |
| L | A | S | ■ | G | O | U | S | ■ | N | A | G | S |

Yesterday's answer 7-17



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**Happy Birthday:** Stop dreaming; do whatever it takes to improve your life. Change begins with you. Please don't take the easiest path; it won't satisfy your soul. Consider what brings you joy, and make a point to incorporate more of that into your everyday routine. Get moving and make your health and happiness your goals. Invest in yourself and your future. Your numbers are 6, 11, 21, 27, 33, 38, 41.

**ARIES** *(March 21-April 19):* Reclaiming a lifestyle you miss is OK. Set your sights on what makes you happy. Learn from experience; don't leave making the first move to someone else or wait for situations to fall into place magically. Enough procrastination; do your part to bring about positive change. ✪✪✪✪✪

**TAURUS** *(April 20-May 20):* Revisit your investments and how you handle them. Don't be fooled by someone's rhetoric. Find out what's at stake and stick to investing in improvements that are uplifting, functional and add value to your life and surroundings. ✪✪✪

**GEMINI** *(May 21-June 20):* Discuss your intentions with someone you trust to offer sound advice, and keep what you share a secret. Gaining insight into the consequences before you act will enable you to change your plans accordingly. A change of scenery or doing some research will bring about better choices. ✪✪✪

**CANCER** *(June 21-July 22):* Use your connections, imagination and drive to bring about change. Opportunity is within reach, but it will take effort to use your skills and experience to make a marketable move. Mingle with people who can offer insight or connections to a better future. ✪✪✪

**LEO** *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Network, mix business with pleasure and fact-check information you receive before you change what or how you get things done. Talks will lead to opportunities and newfound friends. Don't sit on the sidelines when you can further your agenda. ✪✪✪✪✪

**VIRGO** *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Discover what's new and possible. Listen, take notes and adjust your agenda to fit the demands necessary to reach your target. Don't take on too much or make promises that deter you from doing what's best for you. Don't share your plans until they are underway. ✪✪

**LIBRA** *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Attend talks or functions that can feed you the information you require to formulate your next move. Don't put yourself in a vulnerable position by being too open with someone who can damage your reputation. It's best not to reveal your true feelings. ✪✪✪✪

**SCORPIO** *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Handle money matters carefully. Avoid risky joint ventures if you want to lower stress. Take better care of yourself mentally, physically and financially. If you let others intervene, you'll lose control of the outcome. Speak on your behalf and keep life simple. ✪✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Take one step at a time. Listen, but don't believe everything you hear. Too much of anything will end up dragging you down. Maintain balance and equality, and you'll discover a simpler lifestyle. Surround yourself with people who share your beliefs and enjoy similar pastimes. ✪✪✪✪

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN** *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Monitor what's happening and who's doing what, and you'll avoid getting roped into something time-consuming that leads you in a direction you don't care to go. Put your energy into personal growth and getting rid of tension and turmoil. Take time to rejuvenate. ✪✪✪

**AQUARIUS** *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Sit tight. Look inward and make self-adjustments that improve your living conditions and surroundings. Redesign your schedule and the time you allow to regenerate. A new look or healthier routine will offer the boost you need to achieve personal satisfaction and happiness. ✪✪✪✪

**PISCES** *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Stick to the facts, or someone will blame you for being misleading. Don't lure others into your plans when you can change what you don't like, and keep moving forward without explaining your actions. Keep life simple and honest, and focus on your needs. ✪✪

**Birthday Baby:** You are engaging, influential and forceful. You are reliable and pointed.

*✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.*

## SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | 3 | | 4 |
| 2 | | | | 9 | | | 1 | |
| | | | 8 | | | | 9 | |
| | 3 | | 4 | | 5 | 7 | | 1 |
| 5 | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | | 8 | | | 9 | | | |
| | | | 1 | | | 9 | 3 | 7 |
| | 2 | | | | 8 | | | |
| | 5 | 1 | 9 | | 4 | | 8 | |

Difficulty: ★★★ 7/17

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

***Yesterday's Answer***

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 3 |
| 7 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 9 |
| 5 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 7 |
| 9 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 4 |
| 4 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 8 |
| 8 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 2 |
| 2 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 6 |
| 1 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 5 |

Difficulty: ★★ 7/16

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## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

JOB PERKS — Solution: 9 letters

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | S | T | I | F | E | N | E | B | I | G | Y | E | C | C |
| O | A | T | I | M | E | N | E | G | A | R | E | V | O | C |
| F | L | R | R | F | O | O | D | M | A | Y | A | M | N | H |
| F | L | U | E | O | O | S | E | L | O | C | P | E | V | I |
| E | O | E | N | E | P | R | A | L | A | A | S | G | E | L |
| E | W | D | A | C | R | S | P | T | N | I | Y | B | N | D |
| C | A | E | C | V | H | M | I | Y | A | M | O | U | T | C |
| N | N | T | C | U | E | O | C | R | S | N | S | S | I | A |
| E | C | R | E | R | N | A | E | K | U | A | H | I | O | R |
| I | E | O | S | N | R | W | C | S | C | E | A | N | N | E |
| R | T | P | S | E | A | A | P | R | O | G | R | E | S | S |
| E | E | P | S | R | N | N | R | E | M | O | T | E | S | K | T |
| P | A | U | D | S | A | D | V | I | S | O | R | S | I | O |
| X | M | S | P | I | T | S | M | E | D | I | C | A | L | C |
| E | S | P | R | O | F | E | S | S | I | O | N | A | L | K |

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**Yesterday's Answer: Enchanting**

The NEW Wonderword Grand Millennium #1 in LARGE PRINT is now available at: www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

# USA holds off Australia for 98-92 win in Olympics tuneup

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

There was a lot for the U.S. Olympic team to like on Monday. And a lot not to like.

Anthony Davis scored 17 points and grabbed 14 rebounds, Tyrese Haliburton came up with a pair of late 3-pointers that helped stop a freefall by the Americans, and the U.S. beat Australia 98-92 on Monday to improve to 2-0 in its five-game slate of exhibitions leading into the Paris Olympics.

Devin Booker scored 16 for the U.S., Anthony Edwards scored 14 and three players—LeBron James, Bam Adebayo and Joel Embiid—finished with 10 for the Americans, who are playing host to a pair of exhibitions at Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, this week. They'll play Serbia there on Wednesday.

Jock Landale scored 20 for Australia, which got 17 from Josh Giddey and 14 from Dyson Daniels.

The U.S. led by 24 midway through the third quarter, yet saw that lead cut to six with 5:05 left after Australia went on a 39-21 run. But Haliburton had the next six points on his 3s, pushing the lead back to 92-80.

Australia cut it to four on two separate occasions, but Booker went 4-for-4 from the line in the final 8 seconds to ensure the U.S. would escape.

"Third quarter, we started turning the ball over," U.S. coach Steve Kerr said. "We gave up a ton of points at the basket. Back cuts, offensive boards and so, the game shifted. It's a good lesson for us. Better to learn that lesson now than later. And this will be a good tape for us to watch. But I give Australia a ton of credit. They were great. They fought. They were really physical. Took it to us in the last quarter and a half and really made it a game."

### Second unit, again

Just like in the Canada game, the so-called second unit—Haliburton, Jrue Holiday, Adebayo, Davis and Booker—changed the game.

That was the group on the floor when the Americans took a game that was tied at 19-19 with 3:15 left in the first and turned it into a 39-23 lead—a 20-4 run in a span of just over 5 minutes.

Kerr used that group as his starting five to open the second half. But it's become a clear trend already: when the U.S. goes to its bench and can replace All-Stars with other All-Stars, it's just going to be a massive problem for opponents who don't have anywhere near that same level of depth.

AP

Australia's Nick Kay, front left, fights for the ball with United States' Jrue Holiday (12) and Bam Adebayo, back right, during the USA Basketball Showcase in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Monday, July 15, 2024.

"The strength of our team is our depth and we have to utilize our depth," Kerr said.

It's been something the Americans have used to their advantage in the past. Dwyane Wade led the gold-medalist 2008 U.S. Olympic team in points, even though he was sixth in minutes on that team and came off the bench in all eight games.

### Turnovers

Here's the big trouble sign right now for the U.S.: turnovers.

FIBA games are shorter than NBA games, 40 minutes instead of 48 minutes. That means there are fewer possessions and makes it even more imperative to not give the ball away.

Which the Americans did. A lot.

After committing 15 turnovers in last week's exhibition win over Canada, the U.S. had 18 giveaways on Monday and Australia used them to fuel the comeback effort—getting 25 points off turnovers in the second half alone.

"Our turnovers, it's all about focus and execution," Davis said.

### Injury watch

Kevin Durant missed his second consecutive game because of a calf strain, and with only one practice between games it wouldn't seem likely that he plays Wednesday against Serbia either.

Derrick White, who arrived in Abu Dhabi over the weekend and got into his first practice with the team on Sunday, also didn't play. White replaced Kawhi Leonard—who deals with knee issues—on the U.S. roster after the Americans determined last week that it wasn't in Leonard's best interest to play this summer.

## *Clippers say they wanted Kawhi on US basketball team for Paris Olympics*

**LAS VEGAS** (AP)—The Los Angeles Clippers had no problem with Kawhi Leonard playing for the U.S. in the Paris Olympics this summer and wanted him to remain on the team, general manager Lawrence Frank said Monday.

USA Basketball removed Leonard—whose NBA season was disrupted at the end because of a knee problem—from its roster last week after a four-day, four-practice training camp and replaced him with the Boston Celtics' Derrick White. USA Basketball said that it and the Clippers determined that Leonard not playing this summer was in his best interest.

"It was USAB's call, and I was, quite frankly, very disappointed with the decision," Frank told reporters in Las Vegas. "Kawhi wanted to play. We wanted him to play."

Leonard missed 12 of the Los Angeles Clippers' final 14 games this past season with right knee inflammation, though he said last week that he felt fine and the knee was doing well. But USA Basketball—which has Clippers coach Tyronn Lue as an assistant on head coach Steve Kerr's staff—felt differently.

Leonard is a two-time NBA champion, six-time All-Star and six-time All-NBA player, but injury issues have been a recurring theme over the past seven seasons. USA Basketball had monitored him going into camp and USA Basketball managing director Grant Hill even watched a workout earlier this summer to check on Leonard's health.

"I was there the first two practices. He looked very good, was a full participant in everything that they did," Frank said. "I wasn't there for the third practice, where ultimately, that was the point where they decided to go in a different direction. I expressed then, I really wished that they would have given Kawhi more time."

The U.S. has been without three-time gold medalist Kevin Durant since it convened in Las Vegas for camp earlier this month. Durant is with the team but did not play in either of its first two exhibitions—a win over Canada on July 10 and a win over Australia on Monday.

If a player on the 12-man roster is hurt during the Olympics, there's no replacement option. That's a major factor weighing on teams as they finalize their rosters before play starts in France later this month.

"I understand USAB's perspective that they have to look at what they feel is in the best interest of the team, despite what I think," Frank said. "They're also managing some other players who are dealing with injuries, so, I understand that they have to do what's best. ... You have to move forward. We support USAB. Desperately want to see them win the gold medal. I know that's how Kawhi feels, too."

## NBA releases pools for this season's NBA Cup in-season tournament

**LAS VEGAS** (AP)—Myles Turner thinks part of the reason the Indiana Pacers became a team capable of making a deep playoff run this past season was because of the in-season tournament.

And he can't wait for Round 2.

Group play pools for the second edition of tournament—now renamed the Emirates NBA Cup—were released by the NBA on Friday. The event will start Nov. 12 and runs through a championship game in Las Vegas on Dec. 17.

The Los Angeles Lakers beat Indiana in last year's inaugural tournament final, capping an event where the league used different court designs and uniforms—in part to make sure viewers knew these games, while all part of the regular season, were supposed to have a different feel and meaning.

"It got eyes on us as a unit," Turner said. "We don't get a lot of TV games, so that exposure was good for not only ourselves, but just the city itself. Really helped us throughout the season as well. We got some real positive momentum from it."

At stake: the trophy, and cash.

Players on the winning team will claim $514,971 each, while $205,988 goes to each player on the runner-up team, $102,994 to players whose teams lost in the semifinals and $51,497 to those players whose team lost in the quarterfinals.

"The feedback from players was that it was competitive last year," said CJ McCollum, the New Orleans guard and president of the National Basketball Players Association. "The jersey changes and the different courts matter. The fact that you'll be competing for something outside of what you normally compete for throughout a season, a chance to win a trophy in the middle of the season is good and obviously, the financial implications also made a difference. All in all, guys just like to compete."

The league is designating seven dates as "Cup Nights," those coming Nov. 12, Nov. 15, Nov. 19, Nov. 22, Nov. 26, Nov. 29 and Dec. 3. Teams will play Cup games on four of those seven nights, one each against the other teams in its group.

Quarterfinals will be played Dec. 10 and 11. The semifinals are in Las Vegas on Dec. 14, followed by the championship game three nights later.

Every game counted in the regular season standings last season—except the championship game, which was technically an 83rd game for the two finalists.

"When you give them something to compete for, it makes it that much more entertaining," McCollum said.

### East Group A

Teams: New York, Orlando, Philadelphia, Brooklyn, Charlotte.

Analysis: The deepest group in the East side, at least up top, with three very good teams in the Knicks, Magic and 76ers leading the way.

### East Group B

Teams: Milwaukee, Indiana, Miami, Toronto, Detroit.

Analysis: This is the tournament that showed what Indiana is capable of last season, and it's reasonable to think the Pacers will take it pretty seriously once again.

### East Group C

Teams: Boston, Cleveland, Chicago, Atlanta, Washington

Analysis: The defending champion Celtics get home games with Cleveland and Atlanta, then have road games in Washington and Chicago—two teams that are likely to be in rebuild mode.

### West Group A

Teams: Minnesota, Los Angeles Clippers, Sacramento, Houston, Portland.

Analysis: Another group where three—or maybe even four—teams can say they expect to win the group and reach the quarterfinals.

### West Group B

Teams: Oklahoma City, Phoenix, Los Angeles Lakers, Utah, San Antonio.

Analysis: The toughest group on paper. The Thunder, Suns and defending in-season tournament champion Lakers all expect to be good, and the Spurs are going to be much better this coming season than they were in Victor Wembanyama's rookie year.

### West Group C

Teams: Denver, Dallas, New Orleans, Golden State, Memphis.

Analysis: The full schedule isn't out yet and isn't expected until next month, but one game certainly catches the eye — Dallas at Golden State, date TBA, in what could be former Warriors guard Klay Thompson's first game in the Bay as a visitor.

# MLB All-Stars back in Arlington, Texas

**ARLINGTON, Texas** (AP)—Major League Baseball was still stinging from a strike that had wiped out the World Series the previous season when the 1995 All-Star Game was played in the stifling Texas heat at the Rangers' new ballpark.

Buck Showalter certainly remembers how hot it was when he managed the American League squad then. He also knows how important that game was for baseball.

"I think the All-Star Game was a reminder that we're back to normalcy, so to speak, and that you could trust our game again," Showalter recalled.

**» Where 11 future Hall of Famers started outside in Texas heat in '9**

There were 15 future Hall of Fame players on the rosters, with Rangers catcher Ivan Rodriguez among 11 of them who started the game. He got an extended ovation during pregame introductions, then sent the sellout crowd of 50,920 into a frenzy when he threw out leadoff hitter Lenny Dykstra trying to steal second base in the top of the first inning.

"I did what I do best during the game," Rodriguez said.

Pudge is now one of the ambassadors for another Midsummer Classic in Arlington. This one will be played across the street in Globe Life Field, a stadium with a retractable roof that has already hosted two World Series since opening in 2020.

The heat is still here, but the roof will be closed for the game Tuesday night, as well as for the workout and Home Run Derby the day before. The forecast calls for temperatures in the upper 90s, and maybe even pushing 100 degrees — similar to the sweltering conditions for the All-Star festivities there nearly three decades ago.

"It was like sitting on a griddle," former Rangers president Tom Schieffer recalled.

The National League won the game 3-2 with all three of its hits being solo home runs. Craig Biggio and Mike Piazza both went deep with two outs, the latter off Rangers lefty Kenny Rogers in the seventh inning, before game MVP Jeff Conine's game-deciding homer in the eighth.

### The Ballpark in Arlington

That old stadium, with a different name, still stands and looks much the same from the outside. But it can no longer host an MLB game.

After the Rangers played their final game there in 2019, the playing surface was reconfigured primarily for football, including artificial turf throughout and the removal of the visitors dugout and about a dozen rows of seats on what was the third-base side. The UFL's Dallas Renegades and local high school teams play football in the stadium that is also the home of a Major League Rugby team and a reserve team for FC Dallas of Major League Soccer.

Conine's pinch-hit homer in 1995 landed in the left-center field stands, which have been replaced by permanent seating that extends well past the outfield wall toward the former infield.

AP

The All Star Village is set up inside the Choctaw Stadium ahead of the MLB All Star baseball game in Arlington, Texas, Thursday, July 11, 2024.

MLB is utilizing the old ballpark this week as part of the All-Star Village, including a wiffle ball field situated near where the infield once was and by a nearby domed tent shading the world's largest baseball. Jerseys and other memorabilia from former Rangers players are on display in their old clubhouse.

The Rangers had moved into that stadium in 1994, after playing their first 22 seasons in Texas at old Arlington Stadium, which was first built as a minor league park.

### Headed to the hall

Rodriguez was one of six future Hall of Famers in the AL starting lineup in 1995, along with first baseman and Home Run Derby champion Frank Thomas, shortstop Cal Ripken Jr., third baseman Wade Boggs, right fielder Kirby Puckett and designated hitter Edgar Martinez. Roberto Alomar entered as a pinch-runner and played second base.

Joining catcher Piazza and second baseman Biggio in the NL lineup were first baseman Fred McGriff, shortstop Barry Larkin and right fielder Tony Gwynn.

Three future Hall of Famers selected for that game didn't play because of injuries: shortstop Ozzie Smith, pitcher Greg Maddux and center fielder Ken Griffey Jr.

### Bring on the Texas heat

The game-time temperature for the 1995 game was 96 degrees, and more than 100 people were treated at first-aid stations inside the ballpark for heat-related problems such as dehydration and headaches.

It was even hotter during workouts and the Home Run Derby the previous afternoon. That was before the derby was the prime-time showcase it is now.

"My first recollection is how hot it was," said Showalter, then the manager of the New York Yankees, who had the AL's best record when the 1994 season ended prematurely Aug. 11 after players went on strike. He later was the Rangers manager from 2003-06. "That was a great facility, except it didn't have a roof on it. There was nothing wrong with that ballpark."

### Before interleague play

Aside from the World Series, the All-Star Game was the only time AL and NL players competed against each other until interleague games began in 1997. The first regular-season interleague game was at Texas, two years after the ASG—a 4-3 win by Barry Bonds and the San Francisco Giants on June 12.

NFL and other 'new' neighbors

Globe Life Park is next to Texas Live!, a $250 million dining, entertainment and hospitality complex that opened in 2019, the kind of development that had been envisioned a quarter-century earlier when building the former ballpark. The current stadium is also adjacent to two luxury hotels, one that opened earlier this year in conjunction with a new Arlington Convention Center.

The NFL's Dallas Cowboys play nearby at AT&T Stadium, which opened in 2009 and was designed by HKS. That is the same company that designed Globe Life Field, where the neutral-site World Series between the Los Angeles Dodgers and Tampa Bay was played at the end of the pandemic-impacted 2020 season before the Rangers won their first championship last fall.

# Bazzana taken by Cleveland Guardians with top draft pick

**FORT WORTH, Texas** (AP)—Travis Bazzana feels like he represents an entire country, not just a college.

Cleveland selected the Australian second baseman on Sunday night with the No. 1 pick in Major League Baseball's amateur draft, and three players from Wake Forest were picked in the top 10.

A former cricket, rugby and soccer player who came to the United States to play baseball for Oregon State, the 21-year-old hit .407 with 28 homers and 66 RBIs this season. He became the first Australian and first second baseman taken No. 1.

"An opportunity to make an impact on a lot of baseball players and a lot of people back home in Australia, and hopefully change the narrative for baseball there," Bazzana said.

Bazzana hit .360 over three seasons at Oregon State with 45 homers, 165 RBIs, 180 walks and 66 steals.

Cleveland president of baseball operations Chris Antonetti said the team made its decision Sunday.

"He recognizes pitches exceedingly well," Antonetti said. "He knows the strike zone, makes good swing decisions, when he does choose to swing makes elite-level contact. And I think what's really grown in Travis' game over the past year or so is the ability to add impact and drive the ball."

Bazzana watched the draft from Oregon State in the rooms where he had been recruited, joined by his parents, brothers and aunts along with coaches and mentors.

"There's people that have flown all the way from Australia, which is not cheap, nor is it an easy flight," he said.

He was inspired by Ryan Rowland-Smith and Trent Oeltjen, Australians who had reached MLB.

"They really helped me believe and see this path and get an opportunity at Oregon State, and kind of helped me set no limits on myself," he said.

Once in college, there wasn't any pressure to produce.

"No one really expected anything from the Australian kid," he said.

Baseball's No. 1 selection this year has a slot value of $10,570,600 under the bonus pools system that began in 2012. Cleveland had the top pick for the first time since the draft began in 1965.

Just 10 high school players were among the 30 first-round picks.

Wake Forest right-hander Chase Burns went second to Cincinnati, while Demon Deacons first baseman Nick Kurtz was the fourth pick for Oakland and third baseman/outfielder Seaver King 10th for Washington. They became the eighth trio of teammates selected in the first round, the first among the top 10 since Rice right-handers Philip Humber, Jeff Niemann and Wade Townsend in 2004.

Burns, 21, was 10-1 with a 2.70 ERA and 191 strikeouts and 30 walks over 100 innings in 16 starts. The Reds took Demon Deacons right-hander Rhett Lowder with the seventh overall selection last year.

Kurtz hit .306 with 22 homers, 57 RBIs and 78 walks, and King batted .308 with 16 homers and 64 RBIs.

Colorado used the third pick on Georgia third baseman Charlie Condon, who started college as a walk-on. Projected first by some, the 6-foot-6 Condon led the NCAA this year with a .433 average and 37 homers. The 21-year-old homered in eight straight games from April 26 to May 9, one shy of the NCAA record, and won the Golden Spikes Award as the top amateur baseball player.

Arkansas left-hander Hagen Smith, who had Tommy John surgery as a 16-year-old in 2019, was picked fifth by the Chicago White Sox. He went 9-2 with a 2.04 ERA in 16 starts, striking out 161 in 84 innings.

Kansas City went next and took Jac Caglianone, a two-way player from Florida. A first baseman and left-handed pitcher, he hit .419 with 35 homers and 72 RBIs for the Gators this year while going 5-2 with a 4.76 ERA in 16 starts, striking out 83 and walking 50 in 73 2/3 innings.

West Virginia infielder JJ Wetherholt went seventh to St. Louis. The 21-year-old hit .331 with eight homers and 30 RBIs in 36 games, missing 24 games between Feb. 19 and April 5 because of a hamstring injury. He won the Division I batting title as a sophomore in 2023, hitting .449 with 16 homers and 60 RBIs and 36 stolen bases.

Wetherholt attended the draft wearing a black cowboy hat and bolo tie. He quickly put on a Cardinals jersey and cap. Tennessee second baseman Christian Moore, also on site, was taken eighth by the Los Angeles Angels.

Konnor Griffin was the first high school player picked, taken ninth by Pittsburgh. The 18-year-old is a shortstop and outfielder from Jackson Prep in Mississippi.

Florida State outfielder James Tibbs III was taken 13th by San Francisco and Seminoles teammate Cam Smith, a third baseman, went next to the Chicago Cubs.

Mississippi State switch pitcher Jurrangelo Cijntje was selected 15th by Seattle. Cijntje was born in the Netherlands, grew up in Curaçao and played in the 2016 Little League World Series. He was drafted in the 18th round by Milwaukee two years ago but went to college.

Cam Caminiti, a cousin of 1996 NL MVP Ken Caminiti, was picked 24th by Atlanta. The 17-year-old left-hander is from Saguaro High School in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Teams made the first 74 picks, with the remainder of the 20 rounds on Monday and Tuesday. Cleveland also picked 36th and 48th.

Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred was booed by the roughly 2,000 fans at Cowtown Coliseum when he emerged on stage through the set's saloon doors and each time he returned to announce a selection. Spectators booed especially loudly for the selections of the Houston Astros and New York Yankees.

Using the prospect promotion picks they earned when Corbin Carroll and Gunnar Henderson won Rookie of the Year awards, Arizona selected outfielder Ryan Waldschmidt 31st and Baltimore followed by choosing Virginia shortstop Griff O'Ferrall.

Wyatt Sanford, a son of former Pittsburgh and Los Angeles Dodgers infielder Chance Sanford, was taken 47th overall by the Pirates.

# SaeHee Kim conquers July tourney

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

SaeHee Kim won her first CNMI Women's Golf Association tournament of the season after prevailing in the July competition last July 13 at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort west course.

The former resident of Tinian scorched the greens and fairways of the Kagman golf course with a scintillating net score of 68 to win the tourney with plenty to spare.

Kim started slow with a gross score of 6-over 42 on the front nine before improving to a par 36 in the back nine for a gross score of 78 for the 14-handicapper.

"The weather was nice and sunny as usual with breeze. The easiest hole was No. 14. My drive was good and second shot was good which ended with a birdie. I don't think any hole was the hardest, but most of the greens were hard to putt because it was so slow," she said.

Kim then dedicated her win to all the CWGA members. "I had so much fun on Saturday with my beautiful CWGA ladies!" said the mother of five.

Dol Yamagishi finished second with her net 70, followed by third place Sunny Hyun with her net 71. Yuko Togawa (net 73), Terry Guerrero (net 78), Rose Rohringer (85), and Lorraine Babauta (86) made up the rest of the participants of the CWGA July ace.

The club continues to look for new members as the new season continues. For those interested in becoming a member of CWGA or for more information, contact CWGA president Yuko Togawa at (670) 287-9856, vice president Lorraine Babauta at (670) 287-0621, or treasurer Lou Kim at (670) 783-7317.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
SaeHee Kim is all smiles after winning the CNMI Women's Golf Association July competition last July 13 at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort west course.

# Liberation Day chess tournament on July 21

The Guam Chess Federation is holding recurring chess tournaments at the Micronesia Mall, including the upcoming Liberation Day Blitz Chess Tournament this Sunday, July 21, 2024 starting at 11am in the Micronesia Mall Center Court.

This Sunday's tournament will feature a 9-round Swiss system competition with a 10-minute time control. Since the start of 2024, the Guam Chess Federation has successfully organized weekend tournaments at the Micronesia Mall, drawing enthusiastic players of all ages and skill levels. For the month of July, tournaments are scheduled every Sunday, alternating between the Center Court and other event spaces.

Almer Santos, president of the Guam Chess Federation, emphasizes the inclusive nature of the tournaments, as chess is a game that brings together people of all ages and backgrounds. The Guam Chess Federation aims to foster a love for the game and promote its numerous cognitive and social benefits.

"We encourage everyone, from beginners to seasoned players of all ages, to join us this Sunday," Santos added.

The Guam Chess Federation is committed to promoting chess as a beneficial activity for both mental acuity and social interaction. As Almer Santos aptly puts it, "Chess is everything: art, science, and sport."

The Guam Chess Federation also looks forward to holding their championship events in the upcoming months to prepare Guam players for off-island competitions.

For the latest updates on this event, contact event organizers at (671) 777-9956 or (671) 977-0850. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
An adult and youth player play a game of chess during one of the Guam Chess Federation's tournaments at the Micronesia Mall.

## SWEEP

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part. The lead teetered both ways with many draws in between as both duos tried to outplay the other.

The back-and-forth went on until the game was tied up again at 12-12. Then, Aizawa and Sano had a 3-point advantage, 15-12, after consecutive errors by Nomura and Shimogami. Nomura and Shimogami then clawed their way back into contention as the match went into another draw, 19-19.

The defending champs then put a stop to it as they were fired up when the game went into the penultimate tie, 20-20. With the last draw at 21-21, Nomura and Shimogami landed the final two crucial points to take their second title on Saipan.

In the mixed doubles event earlier in the morning that opened up the finals stage, No. 1 seed Hiroki Nishi and Akari Sato made light work of Yuichi Shimogami and Sayaka Hobara, 21-11, 21-10, to claim the title.

The women's doubles finals featured fiery players from Japan and South Korea. It was an intense matchup against No. 3 Kokona Ishikawa and Mio Konegawa against Hye Jeong Kim and Yu Jung Kim that lasted three sets and almost an hour and a half.

Ishikawa and Konegawa had the upper hand first and barely escaped the first set, 21-19, but faltered in the second as both Kims targeted a fatiguing Japan duo, 11-21. The winner-take-all third set was hard fought but Ishikawa and Konegawa regrouped and made the crucial final points to win, 21-18.

Both 19-year-olds, Ishikawa and Konegawa said it's their first time winning a tournament abroad. On how this last tourney went for them compared to the first, they said, "Since we lost to this opponent in a quick match in the first-round last week, we watched videos and took measures to prepare."

This tourney wraps up two International Challenges in the CNMI.

LEIGH GASES
South Korea's women's doubles partners in action during their finals in the last Badminton World Federation Grade 3 International Challenge tournament in Saipan—the Dove Saipan International 2024—last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

LEIGH GASES
Japan's women's doubles champions Kokona Ishikawa and Mio Konegawa celebrate after getting their last point in their finals matchup in the last Badminton World Federation Grade 3 International Challenge tournament in Saipan—the Dove Saipan International 2024—last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

## AMBER

*From page 16*

to the spot. We were just blessed with double banger mahi-mahi early in the morning… Just got lucky with that one."

As for the tuna, he said they got it on the first day last Saturday when the water wasn't as rough.

Besides their haul, they said that they also tried to hunt for a bill fish big enough to break the record 942-lb marlin caught by his uncle Mike James in the tourney last 2012.

San Gil then said he's joined the tourney for about six or seven years now and this is the second year with his own boat.

Despite the long trek from the south to the north, San Gil said they come back to join the tourney because they love it. "The Saipan derby is a lot bigger than any derby on Guam. The community is awesome. There's a lot of planning that goes into it; the prizes are great; the banquet is awesome. I love the Saipan derby."

He added, "Any Guam boats that haven't made the journey up here yet, if you think your vessel is safe and seaworthy to make it up here, you should definitely come up to Saipan and check out the derby. It's a big derby and the community is awesome."

Results of the yellowfin, wahoo, and total weight will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

Tournament sponsors are the Marianas Visitors Authority, Mobil Oil Marianas, Budweiser, Docomo Pacific, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Paradise Dental, Hawaiian Rock Products, Matson Navigation, Coca-Cola/Foremost, Pacifica Insurance, Century Insurance Co. Ltd., RNV Construction, Bridge Capital Investments, LLC, United Management International, JEM Mobile Stations, Fishing Tackle & Sporting Goods Store, Pacific Basin Insurance, and Tinian Shipping.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### MLB STANDINGS

#### AMERICAN LEAGUE

| East Division | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Baltimore | 58 | 38 | .604 | – |
| New York | 58 | 40 | .592 | 1 |
| Boston | 53 | 42 | .558 | 4½ |
| Tampa Bay | 48 | 48 | .500 | 10 |
| Toronto | 44 | 52 | .458 | 14 |
| **Central Division** | | | | |
| Cleveland | 58 | 37 | .611 | – |
| Minnesota | 54 | 42 | .563 | 4½ |
| Kansas City | 52 | 45 | .536 | 7 |
| Detroit | 47 | 50 | .485 | 12 |
| Chicago | 27 | 71 | .276 | 32½ |
| **West Division** | | | | |
| Seattle | 52 | 46 | .531 | – |
| Houston | 50 | 46 | .521 | 1 |
| Texas | 46 | 50 | .479 | 5 |
| Los Angeles | 41 | 55 | .427 | 10 |
| Oakland | 37 | 61 | .378 | 15 |

#### NATIONAL LEAGUE

| East Division | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Philadelphia | 62 | 34 | .646 | – |
| Atlanta | 53 | 42 | .558 | 8½ |
| New York | 49 | 46 | .516 | 12½ |
| Washington | 44 | 53 | .454 | 18½ |
| Miami | 33 | 63 | .344 | 29 |
| **Central Division** | | | | |
| Milwaukee | 55 | 42 | .567 | – |
| St. Louis | 50 | 46 | .521 | 4½ |
| Pittsburgh | 48 | 48 | .500 | 6½ |
| Cincinnati | 47 | 50 | .485 | 8 |
| Chicago | 47 | 51 | .480 | 8½ |
| **West Division** | | | | |
| Los Angeles | 56 | 41 | .577 | – |
| San Diego | 50 | 49 | .505 | 7 |
| Arizona | 49 | 48 | .505 | 7 |
| San Francisco | 47 | 50 | .485 | 9 |
| Colorado | 34 | 63 | .351 | 22 |

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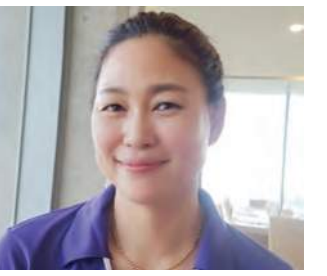



# Another sweep for Japan in doubles finals

LEIGH GASES
Japan's women's doubles champions in action during their finals in the last Badminton World Federation Grade 3 International Challenge tournament in Saipan—the Dove Saipan International 2024—last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Japanese duos were in the spotlight once again in the last Badminton World Federation Grade 3 International Challenge tournament on Saipan—the Dove Saipan International 2024—as they won all three doubles finals last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

There was a repeat champion in the men's doubles as No. 3 seed Takumi Nomura and Yuichi Shimogami claimed their second title in as many tournaments.

They took on countrymen Tori Aizawa and Daisuke Sano and put a stop to their rallying clutches and won in two tough sets, 21-19, 23-21.

Nomura and Shimogami ruled the second set early as they got a 2-0 lead. But Aizawa and Sano tied the game, 3-3, from back-to-back errors on Nomura and Shimogami's

See SWEEP on Page 15

# Guam's *Amber Marie* hauls in largest mahi

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Guam anglers—even if it's not their turf—navigated their way around Saipan waters successfully as they hauled in big catches during the two-day Saipan Fishermen's Association 40th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament last weekend.

The *Amber Marie* captained by Adam San Gil, with two other anglers in their 22-footer, caught the biggest mahimahi that weighed 23.9 lbs out of just two caught during the tourney. Second place was casted by Saipan's *Hello Fishy* at 10.4 lbs.

The Guam vessel also bagged third place in the skipjack tuna category with their 14-lb catch, and fourth place in the bill fish category with a 123.5-lb haul. They received $800 from the Greg D. Perez Sportfishing Foundation.

LEIGH GASES
*Amber Marie* captain Adam San Gil poses with their trophy during the awards banquet last Monday night at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan of the two-day Saipan Fishermen's Association 40th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament.

First place in the skipjack category was *Chang* at 16.1 lbs, and second was *St. Jude* at 14.6 lbs.

First place in the bill fish category was *Le'Ana Vae* from Tinian at 153.2 lbs. Second went to *Defiance* with their 132.5-lbs haul; and third was *Sweet Candy* at 130 lbs.

Toward the end of the banquet, the grand prize winner was announced. It was the biggest bill fish caught by *Only Reels* at 211 lbs. Captain Aaron Benavente and crew took home $3,000 and the side bet of $5,800.

The *Amber Marie* was actually in contention for hauling in the biggest fish so far in the tourney after Day 1 last Saturday, but was eventually bumped off, said the 25-year-old captain. So, with that, when they saw no one had caught a mahi yet, they decided to change it up.

He said they fished off Marpi Reef after looking at his chart and asking some local fishermen where to go. With the catch, he said, "it was a lucky fish. The second day of the tourney was kind of rough so we decided to drop lines early instead of pushing throttle

See AMBER on Page 15

# Golden return to the mats in Peru by Aden

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
CNMI son and wrestler Aden Attao poses with his gold medal after the 2024 U20 Pan-Am Wrestling Championships in Lima, Peru that was held last July 11-13.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

CNMI son and wrestler Aden Attao's return to the mats after a much-needed break resulted in a gold medal finish in the 2024 U20 Pan-Am Wrestling Championships in Lima, Peru that was held last July 11-13.

In the finals of the 130-kg Greco-Roman style, Attao pinned Canada's Jorawar Dhinsa for an 8-0 victory in less than a minute. In the semis, he had another dominant performance with a 10-0 win over Brazil's Wesley Barros. In Round 2, he won, 11-0 over Luis De La Rosa of Mexico, and in Round 1, he first faced off against Dhinsa and also pinned him then for a 4-0 win.

The 19-year-old said that the tournament was good and he was excited to get back out there and wrestle with his teammate and friends.

With the much-needed break last month to visit family and friends back home, he said, "The break really helped me, it helped me just refocus and just spend time with the people I love doing what I love. And it just allowed me to refocus my mind and focus on my goals, but it also released a lot of stress that I had."

On his win, he said, he felt good about it because he's wrestled everyone else in the tourney besides Dhinsa. "I wrestled the Mexican two years ago and the Brazilian last year, so I knew I had the abilities to win it again. I just needed to go out and wrestle the way I can if I wanted to win," he said.

As he is the training partner of Olympian Adam Coon—and with the 2024 Paris Olympics right around the corner—he said his mindset is to just continue to help Coon out and learn as well.

Right after the Olympics, Attao will face a string of tournaments and said that his mentality leading up to them has always been the same: "Trust my coaches, trust in the training. Go out, have fun, be aggressive, wrestle smart, and just let it fly."

The wrestling schedule for the 2024 Paris Olympics is set for August, then he takes on the U20 World Championships in Pontevedra, Spain from Sept. 2 to 8. Then, he flies once again to Europe for the U23 World Championships in Tirana, Albania.